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THURSDAY JANUARY 5TH, 2017

WE'RE BACK! The GEM WISHES READERS AND ADVERTISERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND ALL GOOD FORTUNE IN 2017

THE GLAMORGAN HUNT BRINGS THE PONIES TO COWBRIDGE!

Cowbridge hosted the Glamorgan Hunt twice over the festive period. The traditional Boxing Day event was well attended, and more pictures from that day can be seen on page 4.

The image above was taken by local photographer GLYN EVANS at the second meet – traditionally held on New Year's Day, but because hunts do not take place on Sundays, it instead met on January 2.

The meets provided an excellent opportunity for some of the younger riders to take their mounts out for a ride through the streets of Cowbridge!

SEAL PUP IS RESCUED... NEARLY SEVEN MILES INLAND!

A young seal pup has been rescued by RSPCA Cymru in remarkable circumstances – after being spotted almost seven miles inland in the rural Vale.

The organisation rescued the pup after it was found in a farmer's field in Graig Penllyn near Cowbridge just before Christmas.

Staff from RSPCA Cymru believe the pup must have reached the field after undertaking an extraordinary journey up the streams of the River Thaw.

He was found dehydrated and a little underweight – but is now undergoing rehabilitation in RSPCA care, and is anticipated to be ready for release in the near future.

Gary Lucas, RSPCA animal collection officer, said: "I've worked for the RSPCA for almost 30 years, and this was my first-ever seal rescue – and in quite amazing circumstances.

"As the crow flies, this amazing seal pup was almost seven miles from the sea and must have reached Graig Penllyn after travelling up the tiniest of streams possible.

"Thankfully, while the pup was a little thin and clearly dehydrated, he seems to be doing okay.

"It is hoped, after a period in RSPCA care, that he can be released, along with other seal pups, in the near future."

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As a turbulent 2016 makes way for a new day...

A Testament of Hope for peace

FOR many, 2016 will surely rank as one of the most turbulent in modern memory, with natural disasters – earthquakes, hurricanes, fires and floods – all taking a heavy human toll.

But the year was more indelibly marked by never-ending media images of grim global conflicts, brutal acts of terrorism, and poignant scenes of fleeing masses of refugees, all confirming that 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns' bleak truism – "*man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn*" – sadly, is as true today as it was then.

Violent conflict in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere dominated the world news headlines; while at home, wide divisions exposed by the EU Referendum and Brexit 'debate' led to an unprecedented level of vitriolic abuse and invective, bordering on enmity, between the 'Leave' and 'Remain'camps, which split the country in two, leaving deep wounds in society that may take a long time to heal. It was exceeded only by the unseemly battle over the US Presidency, which has left the world's other great democracy split asunder in its wake, even as a new year dawns.

However, the good news is that 2017 now offers a fresh opportunity for men (and women) of peace, both at home and abroad, who truly believe in reconciliation and renewal, to give the biblical message of '*peace on earth, goodwill towards men*' real substance, rather than something scribbled once a year on a greetings card…Always remembering Albert Einstein's wise adjunct: "*Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding*."

World and home leaders – at every level – should heed the inspiring words of another great man, who died for precisely these values. In 'A Testament of Hope' before he was assassinated in 1968, Rev Martin Luther King Jnr wrote: "*Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that*".

In a world riven by discord and strife, let this be not only a simple appeal for peace and harmony, but a *challenge* that will resonate and define the new year ahead.

Don John, GEM Editor

'Happy New Year' from Age Cymru

THE year 2016 was a busy one for Age Cymru – Wales' largest and leading charity for older people.

The Age Cymru Awards saw us paying tribute to and recognising the role of some of society's unsung heroes who make Wales a better place for older people.

We celebrated the tenth anniversary of our Gwanwyn arts festival for over 50s which saw 10,000 older people taking part in arts and creative activities with us in May.

Working with banks, building societies, police forces, utility companies, trading standards departments and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, we launched the Wales Against Scams Partnership (WASP), to help protect older and vulnerable people from scams.

Age Cymru Advice – our free, independent, confidential and impartial information and advice service dealt with 10,000 enquiries on a range of issues, including benefits and care at home.

We also marked older people's contribution to society with our annual national celebration Age Positive Week, which again saw groups across the country joining in our celebrations.

I'd like to thank all the companies, organisations, individuals, volunteers, donors and fundraisers who worked with and gave their time and energy to Age Cymru in 2016.

I'd also like to thank Age Cymru's local charity partners whose tireless work in communities across Wales last year helped make a real difference to the lives of thousands of older people.

Finally, I'd like to wish GEM readers a peaceful and prosperous New Year and assure you that Age Cymru will continue with our mission of creating an age friendly Wales where older people can lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Ian Thomas,
Chief executive, Age Cymru.

AN OPEN LETTER TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

CHRISTMAS DAY was a working day for carers and support workers. Rather than sitting down to dinner with their family, these community superstars worked to provide support and care to vulnerable people in their own homes and in residential centres.

Maybe they looked after members of your family; they definitely looked after people in your community.

Carers ensure that the most vulnerable in our society are treated with dignity.

They support older people, those who are physically disabled, individuals with mental health issues and service users who have learning difficulties.

They offer consistency of care and provide a range of support.

They deserve not only our praise but fair rates of pay and conditions of service.

Unfortunately, most are paid the minimum wage of £7.20 per hour. We would like everyone to be paid at least the real Living Wage of £8.45 per hour.

Please support care workers in your community by providing the sector with more money.

Quality care means investing in the workforce.

Chris Bennett, chief executive, Perthyn, Mandy Evans, chief executive, Mirus Wales; Lynne Hackett, head of community sector, UNISON Cymru/Wales; Ewan Hilton, chief Executive, Gofal; Anne Hinchey, chief executive, Wales and West Housing Association; Adrian Roper, chief executive, Cartrefi Cymru; Alun Thomas, chief Executive, Hafal.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Residents respond to refugee centre's winter aid appeal

THANK you so much to the people in and around Llantwit Major, who responded to an appeal for warm winter clothes.

The Oasis Centre in Splott supports the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in Cardiff and the Vale, and the clothes were given "to those who needed them, via the 'Attic Boutique' to provide good quality clothing, shoes, and various items to refugees/asylum seekers, who arrive with nothing but the clothes they stand in.

" Our aim is to treat all with respect and dignity in a boutique-style environment."

We took four huge car-loads into Cardiff and were astounded by the high quality of the donations, beautiful coats, good strong shoes and boots, warm jumpers, some brand-new trousers, plus plenty of cosy hats, scarves and gloves.

In the short time I've volunteered there, I've met people whose stories are tragic, including a man who took a year to get here, so it was heartwarming that people brought their spare warm clothing.

Thanks also to Julian the manager of the Co-op, for the loan of a large trolley for collecting the donations.

Annie Paine, Llantwit Major.

'THE PRINCESS OF WALES' STAFF WERE MARVELLOUS'

I WANTED to provide some positive feedback to The GEM, following a recent visit to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

I was very happy with the level of care received by the staff on ward 7, and they could not do enough to support my recovery in time for Christmas.

At first, I went to A & E at 1.30pm, and didn't received a bed until 9.30pm later that evening. For this, I blame the council and Assembly Government: when they closed Maes Gwyn Hospital and sold the ground for houses, why didn't they spend the money on extra wards, knowing that more people were coming into Wales?

There are cancellations of operations and no beds, but the staff were marvellous.

Norman Viant

CORRECTION

THE Glamorgan GEM runs regular columns across the Vale and Bridgend areas featuring some of our top politicians – unfortunately, in the print edition on Thursday, December 22, we regret there was a mix-up.

The column for Chris Elmore, Labour MP for Ogmore, was inadvertently run under the byline of Coun Neil Moore, Labour Leader of the Vale Council. This was corrected in The GEM's digital edition.

Our fulsome apologies to both parties.

Go to the **Glamorgan GEM** website for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
05 Thur	10.59	8.9	23.28	8.5
06 Fri	11.58	8.4		
07 Sat	00.34	8.3	13.13	8.4
08 Sun	01.49	8.3	14.14	8.5
09 Mon	02.59	8.7	15.35	8.8
10 Tues	04.07	8.7	16.37	8.9
11 Wed	05.02	9.1	17.32	9.2
12 Thur	05.55	9.4	18.18	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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FACEBOOK: GlamorganGEM / TWITTER: gem_news • sport_gem

News Submissions: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk
Editor Don John: donjohn@tindlenews.co.uk
Tim Chapman tim.chapman@tindlenews.co.uk / TWITTER *@TimGlamorganGEM*
Philip Irwin philipirwin@tindlenews.co.uk / TWITTER *@PhilipGlamGEM*
Advertising/Distribution: gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk
Sales Manager: jan.irving@tindlenews.co.uk • **Sales Executives:** wendy.short@tindlenews.co.uk vanessa.james@tindlenews.co.uk • aimee.wilson@tindlenews.co.uk

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'Walking bus' parents hope to have a meeting with Vale Council

by GEM REPORTER

MEMBERS of the local community who are concerned about the dangers of children walking from Eglwys Brewis to Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, are hoping for a meeting with the Vale Council.

On December 9, schoolchildren, parents, churches and community organisations undertook a three-mile 'walking bus' from Eglwys Brewis to the school to highlight the pitfalls of the route.

Following the walking bus, which was organised by 'Vale of Glamorgan Citizens', Coun Peter King, Vale cabinet member for highways, confirmed a review of the route would take place. He did stress that there were subsidised bus provisions, but they are chargeable.

The group and parents have now written to Coun King, hoping he will take a look at the road himself.

In a letter they state: *"We are grateful that you are reassessing the route and hope to hear that it is swiftly designated as unsafe. We would very much like to help you understand the dangers to our children, and hear of our experiences on the 'Walking Bus'.*

"We hope to work with you to find constructive solutions, so that all of our children have safe routes to school.

"We have a number of positive solutions that we would like to discuss with you."

The group and its supporters hope that an agreed 'closed meeting' ,rather than a public one, can be arranged at the Gathering Place in St Athan.

NEW YEAR GONG GOES TO GWEN!

A well known Cowbridge councillor has been recognised in the New Year Honours List – for her community work.

The British Empire Medal was awarded to Mrs Gweneira Baty, for services to the community in Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

The nomination made particular mention of her work with young people and the elderly.

She is probably better known as Coun Gwen Baty, having served on Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council for more than 20 years.

She has served as mayor three times, in the years 1997/98, 2005/06 and 2013/14.

However, she made it clear to The GEM that the nominations she received were not for town council activities.

She said: "I was a governor of Y Bont Faen Primary School for 20 years, and a governor at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg for six.

"I also worked in schools for 20 years, as a support teacher for children who were slow learners."

It is highly likely, however, that the major reason for her nomination is to honour the 20 years she has spent putting on the regular pensioners' lunches, which take place every Monday in the Lesser Hall of the town hall.

ABOVE: Coun Gwen Baty during her year in office as Mayor in 2013/14.

Speaking to The GEM, Coun Baty was keen to play down her achievement. She said: "It's nothing special. I love Cowbridge and I simply want to do things that will keep it as it is."

Charities benefit after residents' nominations

THREE charities have received a share of £100,000 from the Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation, after being nominated by people in Cowbridge.

Aberthin Village Hall, Dogs Trust and Epilepsy Society have been given £100 each after the society's Small Change Big Difference® Month campaign.

The charitable foundation is funded through the Small Change Big Difference® scheme where members donate the pennies from the annual interest on their accounts to help charities and good causes.

A total of 1,000 charities and good causes received £100,000 after being nominated by people at Yorkshire Building Society branches around the UK.

Kaye Cheeseman, manager of the Cowbridge branch of Yorkshire Building Society, said: "I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came into the branch to nominate a charity for a donation during our Small Change Big Difference® Month campaign.

"At Yorkshire Building Society we are committed to being at the heart of our community and I hope these donations will enable the charities to carry on their wonderful work here in Cowbridge."

Small Change Big Difference® Month took place between September 19 and October 15.

In 2015, the Charitable Foundation paid 1,502 donations totalling £392,276 to good causes and charities throughout the UK.

For more information about the scheme and the Charitable Foundation visit www.ybs.co.uk/charitablefoundation.

Whatever happened to the tenor's turkey hat?

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir ended its 2016 rehearsals with a Christmas jumper evening: it was a great success with all members entering into the spirit of the evening and a wide range of jumpers were worn.

During the evening, members voted for the best jumper – this was won by Phil Insley (top tenor) although there was a debate regarding what would happen to his turkey hat and if it would in fact end up as his Christmas lunch!

The choir's year was rounded off with the annual visit to Southways where the staff and residents joined in singing Christmas carols and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Phil Insley with his seasonal hat!

The choir will resume rehearsals at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 7.30pm on January 11 and will be looking forward to an exciting year, which will include a visit from Romsey Male Voice Choir for a joint concert at All Hallows Church, Miskin on May 13. It will be followed by the choir making a return visit to Romsey for a concert to be held in Romsey Abbey on July 17. This will be immediately followed by the choir's annual concert to be held on July 22 at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

In September, the choir will be visiting Nerja, Spain, where it will give a number of concerts.

Gentlemen, bearing in mind that singing with a choir is said to improve one's health and wellbeing, why not consider coming along to one of the rehearsals at Holy Cross Church, where you will be made very welcome? You can just listen, or if you want, join in the singing!

FRANK MAYNARD

Five generations of local family celebrate great-great-gran Eira – 96 years young!

The GEM loves five generation family pictures and the latest one features Eira Woosnam, who lives in Boverton, on her 96th birthday.

Many of Eira's family live in the Boverton-Llantwit Major area and to celebrate such a special occasion, the family had an open day for friends and family at her house.

Pictured above are Eira (96) with clockwise her daughter Eryl Morgan, aged 69; grand-daughter Alison Owens, aged 46; great-grandson Matthew Jones, aged 26; and great-great-grandson Otis Jones, just 18 months.

Eira married husband Francis in 1945. The couple were originally from mid-Wales, but moved to the Vale and lived here for 60 years.

Francis worked for Welsh Water and Eira worked at Southways Nursing Home in Cowbridge. Francis passed away two years ago at the age of 93.

On Monday, this week, the family was thrilled with a new arrival – Etta was born, a new sister for Otis, which means that Eira is a great-great-grand-mother twice over.

The GEM joins in saying 'Happy Birthday' to Eira, and many congratulations!

NFU Ladies' carols

NFU Ladies' December meeting took the form of a carol service in Penllyn Church – "a big thank you to Edward of the Cowbridge Benefice, for conducting the service and to Philippa, who also joined us afterwards for a great party in the Village Hall," a spokeswoman said.

"The next meeting is the annual dinner on Tuesday, January 17, at the Grove Park Golf Club at 7pm. A happy new year to all NFU members."

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CROWDS four or five deep, around 2,000 people in total, lined Cowbridge High Street on a gloriously crisp and bright Boxing Day to support the traditional meet of the Glamorgan Hunt. Some 70 riders, from youngsters on ponies to those slightly older on their hunters, as well as a sprightly pack of hounds – received cheers and applause from all but one of an enthusiastic crowd (*see photo, below right*).

A protestor approached the hunt with a message written on a banner.

THE ST ATHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL RATED 'GOOD' IN ESTYN INSPECTION

ST ATHAN Primary School was awarded a 'good' rating after a recent Estyn inspection.

The report was issued following an inspection in October, and indicated the school was above average in every category, which included standards, wellbeing, 'learning experiences', teaching, care, support and guidance, learning environment, leadership, improving quality, partnership, working and resource management.

Extracts from the report include: "Most pupils make good progress and achieve well, including pupils with additional learning needs."

"All teachers have good up-to-date knowledge of the curriculum and use a wide range of effective strategies for developing pupils' skills."

"There is effective teamwork across the school between the whole staff which impacts positively on raising standards and improving pupils' wellbeing.

"The school is fully inclusive and has a strong sense of community. The staff create a nurturing atmosphere that leads to high levels of pupil wellbeing. The curriculum engages all pupils and celebrates diversity and a range of cultures well.

"All pupils show tolerance, fairness and respect for others."

Headteacher Louise Haynes said: "We are all very proud of the inspection outcome, as it recognises the hard work, commitment and partnership of the whole school community."

Skittles helps raise funds for the teenage cancer charity

SKITTLERS in Penarth helped to raise £433.43 by taking part in a charity 'skittle turkey roll' hosted by Pin Breaks UK at the Ex-Serviceman's Club on Windsor Road in Penarth.

The winners walked away with a turkey each in time for Christmas and all of the money raised will support young cancer patients across south Wales.

Pin Breaks UK raised the money by holding a skittles competition each week for four weeks, which saw both ladies and men's skittlers roll off for the highest score to walk away with the weekly prize.

The company chose to support Teenage Cancer Trust after asking Facebook followers to vote for their favourite charities.

Clive Jones, organiser Pin Breaks, said: "We were really pleased to be able to support such an amazing local cause and know that the donation that we've raised will be used to support young people and their families.

The winners of the 'skittle turkey roll': Charlie Webber, Elaine Reynolds, June Fackrell, Martyn Coles, Fi Lock and Rob Walker, pictured with their turkeys for Christmas.

"We'd like to thank everyone who took part and look forward to supporting this amazing charity during 2017."

Teenage Cancer Trust relies on donations and all money raised by Pin Breaks UK will go towards the maintenance of the specialist Teenage Cancer Trust unit at University Hospital Wales, Cardiff, funding specialist staff and supporting cancer awareness sessions the charity runs in schools, colleges and universities.

Teenage Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for the seven young people aged 13 to 24 diagnosed with cancer every day.

The charity funds and builds specialist units in NHS hospitals and provides dedicated staff, bringing young people together so they can be treated by cancer experts in the best place for them.

Traditionally treated alongside children or elderly patients at the end of their lives, young people can feel isolated, some never meeting another young person with cancer.

Being treated alongside others their own age can make a huge difference to their whole 'experience'. Teenage Cancer Trust wants every young person with cancer to have access to this specialist support, no matter where they live.

Vicki Jones, local fundraising coordinator south Wales said: "Every day, our specialist staff are there to make sure young people with cancer and their families and friends, don't face it alone.

"We provide expert care and support before, during and after treatment and bring young people together to support each other.

"Most of all we want them to be young people first, cancer patients second. But we need the help of our incredible supporters across Wales to help us do more. Currently for every young person we reach there is another we cannot.

"We want to be there for them all. Cancer sucks. Young people shouldn't have to face cancer alone.

"Together we can make sure they don't."

If you would like to take on a challenge of your own, to help transform the lives of young people with cancer in Wales, visit www.teenagecancertrust.org or email hello@teenagecancertrust.org

NEW VALE DROP-IN CENTRE!

Victory for the military veterans...

by GEM REPORTER

LOCAL military veterans are thrilled to have been provided with a drop-in centre in Barry – following a story in The GEM – and the first meeting will be held at Barry Athletic & Bowls Club, Paget Road, on Barry Island at 10am.

In September, former soldier Robert Adams (54), featured on The GEM's front page appealing for a drop-in centre to be established locally.

Mr Adams, who suffers from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), wanted to see a place which would provide help and support for Armed Forces' veterans and their families.

David Ireland of Change Step, the charity for veterans which will oversee the drop-in, explained: "As a result of The GEM article Barry & Athletic Bowls Club got in touch with me. We made a presentation to the club, and they subsequently said they were more than happy for us to meet up there."

Robert Adams is delighted that the club took the time and trouble to get and touch and by its generosity.

He said: "We're very, very grateful to the club.

"The first meeting will be at the club on Tuesday, January 10, and will run from 10am until 1pm. Former servicemen and women, their family members, and those connected to the Armed Forces, are all welcome.

Robert Adams with best friend Mazey.

"We want to see as many people as possible there – whether they're from Barry, Penarth or other parts of the Vale.

"David Ireland is bringing some veterans over from Cardiff for the first meeting."

Mr Adams stressed that the meetings were more than just having a cup of tea and a natter.

"There will be help for people with things like advice on benefits, housing and social matters. Veterans and their families shouldn't suffer in silence."

Members of the club are also willing to share facilities with the veterans.

If veterans or families would like to contact David Ireland, they can call 07956 579 700; to contact Change Step tel: 0300 777 2259.

The full address of Barry & Athletic Bowls Club is Paget Road, Barry Island, CF62 5TQ.

Cowbridge and Llanblethian – *AN HISTORICAL MEDLEY*

COWBRIDGE History Society has recently launched its latest book entitled *Cowbridge and Llanblethian: an historical medley*.

It consists of 14 essays about the town, its surroundings and people. It is edited by Brian James, the well known historian of Cowbridge and the Vale.

Some of the pieces formerly appeared in the society's newsletter, but thought to be so interesting to be well worth another airing, especially for those who are new to Cowbridge; others are new essays.

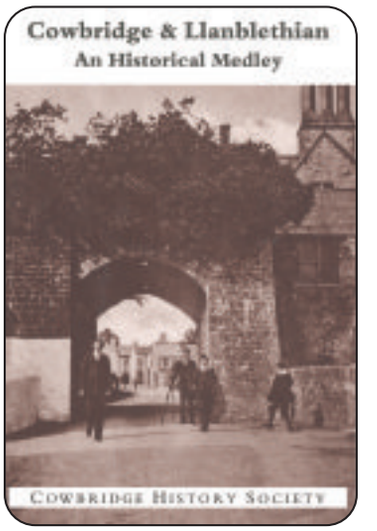
Among this medley there are pieces on murder and hangings in times past and on archaeology and old features of the built environment.

Deborah Fisher has a fascinating account of the links between Cowbridge and Anne Neville, wife of King Richard 'Hunchback'.

Dick Buswell examines the role of water in the life of the town over more than 700 years, noting that the town council fought for many years in the 19th century to delay the supply of piped water and a proper sewage system.

Brian James' contribution is based on his researches into the origins of Ramoth Chapel.

This well illustrated and useful addition to the history of Cowbridge and Llanblethian, is available from all good booksellers and from Old Hall. It would make a marvellous gift for anyone with connections to the area.



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Llancarfan Flower Arrangers raise £800 for two charities

ABOVE: Members of the Llancarfan Flower Arranging Group are pictured after decorating St Cadoc's Church for Christmas.

THE Llancarfan Flower Arranging Group were kept busy making Christmas wreaths for charity.

In total, £600 was raised by ladies from Llancarfan for the Noah's Ark Appeal; in addition, £200 was raised for the Motor Neurone charity by two Penmark members.

It was the first year this fundraising project was undertaken and the group hope to make this an annual event, raising money for various charities in the future. Thank you to those who bought a Christmas wreath; orders are already being taken for 2017! JK

Judge's warning for 'inherently dishonest' Penarth woman

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A PROJECT manager with the Citizens' Advice Bureau, went on two shoplifting expeditions when subject to a suspended sentence of 15 months, that had been passed after she was convicted of defrauding a previous employer, Marks & Spencer, of £45,000, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Lisa Jones (36) of Albert Road, Penarth, had appeared at Cardiff Crown Court for sentence after being convicted for two offences of shoplifting.

She was also in breach of a suspended sentence for fraud which had been passed at Cardiff Crown Court in December 2014.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC described her as: "An inherently dishonest woman" and remanded her in custody overnight.

Visibly distraught, she was led to the cells, handcuffed, by two dock officers.

When she appeared the following day, she was fined a total of £400 and ordered to pay £340 costs.

Said the Judge: "If you appear in a criminal court again, I doubt that you will be dealt with so leniently."

Prosecutor Claire Wilkes said that on two occasions in October, she stole clothing from Coast in St David's Centre, Cardiff.

Jones went there on a third occasion and was spotted by security staff and detained.

She said: "It was stupid, what can I say, I've got the stuff in my house."

She could not give a reason for the theft.

Ms Wilkes said that in her previous employment, she had been a finance manager with Marks & Spencer, and over three years she defrauded expenses worth £45,000. She currently earns £36,000.

Her solicitor, Adam Sharp, said she had already repaid £12,000.

After the shoplifting, she had fully cooperated with the police and they had recovered some of the stolen property in a saleable condition.

"She is genuinely ashamed and remorseful. There is a background of depression, and she takes medication and has had counselling."

The first sentence, he said, also involved 240 hours unpaid work, which she had completed. He said that if she went to prison immediately, it would have a massive impact on her and her family.

He added: "She's adamant it'll never happen again."

Judge Hopkins said: "Your behaviour demonstrates that you are an inherently dishonest woman."

He said that it had seemed "astonishing" that she generously received a 15-month suspended sentence for fraud, committed over three years, which had been a serious breach of trust.

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Beacon lighting plaque installed to mark a double royal occasion

Ewenny's royal plaque.

EWENNY Community Council have installed a plaque to commemorate the lighting of celebration beacons at the Tair Croes hill for both the Queen's 90th birthday and the jubilees of 2002 and 2012.

Vale MP Alun Cairns unveiled the plaque affixed to the trig point marking the top of Tair Croes on December 22. Despite the wind and rain, Community councillors and local residents toasted the joint occasion with champagne in plastic flutes.

Welsh Secretary Mr Cairns, paid tribute to the council for marking the occasion, pointing out that hundreds of beacons were being lit by villagers throughout Britain in celebration.

He said that he would endeavour to let Her Majesty know of the plaque at the next opportunity.

The MP told The GEM: "It was a great honour to unveil the plaque and to thank Ewenny Community Council for their role in celebrating the life and reign of Her Majesty.

"Their act of celebration and commemoration helps to bind us together as Britons and, in conjunction with beacon lighting across the realm, binds our communities together as one nation.

"The ceremony was good fun thanks to the loyal subjects of Ewenny who were in good cheer, despite the wet and windy weather," the MP added.

Uke Band strumming along for charity...

ON Christmas Eve, shoppers at Llantwit Major's Filco store were entertained to festive music by the Llantwit Ukuladies and Ukuladdies.

The band, which meets on Tuesdays at Bethel Baptist Church Hall, approached Matthew Hunt of Filco proposing to entertain Christmas shoppers while collecting for a worthwhile charity.

As Filco has identified the Alzheimers Society as its charity for support during 2016, money raised by the ukulele players also went to this good cause: the sum of £250 was raised in an hour-long performance showing how generous Llantwit people can be at this special time of the year.

Kicking off with 'Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer' and strumming their way through 'Winter Wonderland', 'Frosty the Snowman' and other seasonal melodies, the 12-strong group were much appreciated by the busy shoppers passing through the store.

Contrary to rumours circulating on the day, the band members themselves do not suffer from Alzheimers; they were merely collecting on behalf of the charity, and are grateful for the generous support they received.

Ukuladies and Ukuladdies welcome new members including beginners. Our next meeting is at 2pm on Tuesday, January 10 at the Baptist Church Hall in Llantwit Major.

The ukulele is a social instrument – lots of fun and relatively easy to play. Come and join us! **RS**

Charity boxes and festive stock stolen as burglars raid a butchers' shop

Mark Griffith Family Butcher in Dinas Powys was targeted by thieves just before Christmas.

by GEM REPORTER

POPULAR Dinas Powys business 'Mark Griffith Butchers', at Camms Corner, was burgled over-night, Thursday, December 22 to Friday, December 23, with stock worth thousands of pounds and charity boxes stolen.

Mark discovered that thieves had raided his premises when he arrived early for work on Friday, December 23.

He said: "I got in for work as normal at 5am and found the shop had been ransacked.

"Stock worth between £1,500 and £2,000 was taken along with charity boxes which were full. A tips box containing £500, donated by customers, was also taken."

Among the items of stock taken were turkeys, chickens, steaks and choice cuts meant for local people.

This year Mark and the staff had put out charity boxes for Ty Hafan, MS, Marie Curie and Voluntary Concern. Most of them were full, and they were taken too.

It was his final day of trading before the festive break.

By 12.30pm, he had managed to get new stock delivered and decided to trade until late that day.

Mark, who has traded in Dinas Powys for 39 years, and knows many of his customers by name, was devastated by the turn of events. If anyone has any information they should contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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New Vale Rooms 4U project to help homeless

NEWYDD Housing Association and the Vale Council have appointed Hazel Davies to manage Rooms4U, a shared housing project funded by Crisis UK.

The two-year project, hosted by Newydd will work with partners Vale of Glamorgan Council, Wales and West Housing, Hafod Housing Association and United Welsh to develop and promote shared housing options for single households under 35.

The common housing register in the county, Homes4U, will be used to promote Rooms4U as a method of advertising and allocating shared housing in both the social and private rented sectors, as well as develop partnerships between both sectors.

Rooms4U is one of five UK housing projects helping homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness, to rent a home through a new £150,000 fund. Commissioned by Crisis, the national charity for homeless people, the Help-To-Rent funding programme could enable single homeless people to end their homelessness.

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(LLWYBR CERDDED CYHOEDDUS ST NICHOLAS Rhif 5) (CAU DROS DRO) 2016

Ar 22 Rhagfyr 2016, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) Orchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod:

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 9 Ionawr 2017ac fe'i gelwir yn "Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg Llwybr Cerdded Cyhoeddus St Nicholas Rhif 5 (Cau Dros Dro) 2016".

Os ydych am gwestiynu dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'r darpariaethau ynddo ar y sail nad ydynt yn unol â'r pwerau a ddyfarnwyd gan y Ddeddf uchod neu ar y sail nas cydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw un o ofynion y Ddeddf, neu unrhyw offeryn a wnaed dan y Ddeddf mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn, gallwch, o fewn chwe wythnos o 9 Ionawr 2017, wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys at y diben hwn.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn cerdded ar y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad	Bydd Llwybr Cerdded Cyhoeddus St Nicholas Rhif 5 ar gau o'r pwynt lle bo'r llwybr yn cwrdd â'r A48 wrth grid 309364 174402, ac yn parhau tua'r gogledd i grid 309364 174526
Llwybr Amgen	Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn bydd gwyriad ar hyd llwybr cerdded dros dro i ochr dwyreiniol y llwybr cerdded. Bydd y gwyriad dros dro hwn yn dilyn ymyl yr A48 i'r mynediad cae wrth grid 309429 174431.
Rheswm	Cynnal diogelwch y cyhoedd yn ystod gwaith adeiladu.
Hyd	O 7.00am ar ddydd Llun 9 Ionawr 2017 tan 23.59 ar ddydd Sul 9 Gorffennaf 2017.

Dyddiedig 5 Ionawr 2017

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Depo The Alps, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(ST NICHOLAS PUBLIC FOOTPATH No.5) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

On the 22nd December 2016 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

The Order will come into force on 9th January 2017 and will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council St Nicholas Public Footpath No 5) (Temporary Closure) Order 2016.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 9th January 2017 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall proceed on foot in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	St Nicholas Public Footpath No 5, shall be closed from the point this path meets the A48 at grid 309364 174402, and continuing in a northerly direction to grid 309364 174526.
Alt. Route	During this closure a diversion via a temporary footpath to the east of this footpath will be available. This temporary diversion shall follow the verge of the A48 to the field access at grid 309429 174431.
Reason	To maintain public safety during construction works.
Duration	From 7.00am on Monday 9th January 2017 until 23.59pm on Sunday 9th July 2017.

Dated this 5th day of January 2017

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps Depot, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Life sentence for Barry man

by AJ SICLUNA

A MAN who murdered his ex-partner by pouring lighter fuel over her and setting her alight, has been jailed for life at Cardiff Crown Court.

It was directed that Raymond O'Connell (62) of Redlands Avenue, Penarth, serve a minimum of 17 years, four months.

He admitted murdering 54-year-old Lynne Braund.

Prosecutor James Wilson said the couple had been in a relationship for 17 years and she had a serious fear of fire because her 18-month-old daughter had died in a blaze in 1990 and O'Connell knew of this.

When he set fire to Ms Braund, said Mr Wilson, he was subject to a restraining order which had been made to protect the victim.

He said the attack occurred at Ms Braund's home in Glanmor Crescent, Barry, on August 4, and she died 10 days later.

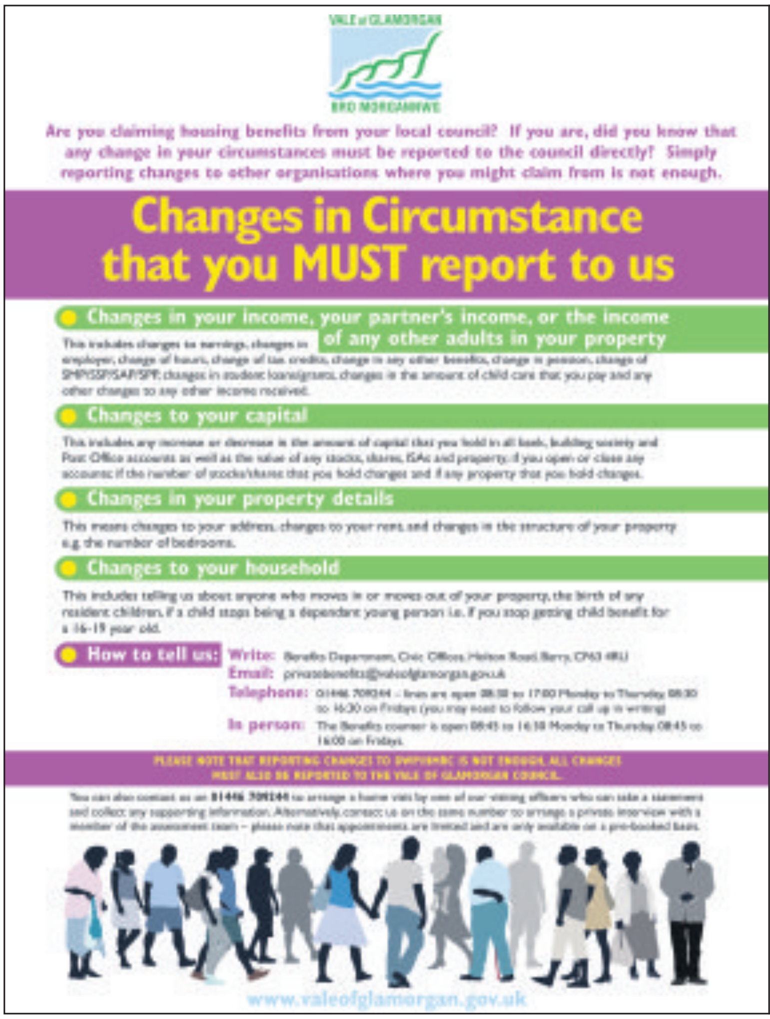
The prosecutor said that after he pushed her to the floor, he squirted fluid over her and then set her alight.

A paramedic who attended the injured woman observed that she had suffered second and third degree burns on up to 25 per cent of her body.

He said that in hospital, she was taken to intensive care but her condition deteriorated and she died from multiple organ failure and possibly sepsis.

In a victim impact statement, her son Kyle described his mother as "all he had in his life" and that since her death, he had suffered greatly.

O'Connell's counsel, Michael Mather-Lees said his client had faced up to his responsibility for his actions.



Ebeneezer's good at Barry school!

THE last week of term before Christmas saw the junior pupils at Gladstone Primary School perform their Christmas concert *Ebeneezer* in front of their families.

Each of the four shows was performed in front of a full house, with the children acting and singing their hearts out, telling the story of Ebeneezer Scrooge and finishing with the traditional Nativity.

They were accompanied, for the second year running, by composer David George Harrington on the keyboard.

Caroline Newman, headteacher, said: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pukka Productions for the free hire of the sound equipment, David George Harrington for his inspirational musical ability, the pupils' families for their support and of course the real stars of the show, our pupils.

"A very happy New Year to you all," added the headteacher.

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'COMMON PURPOSE FOR ALL IN 2017'

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by VALE AM JANE HUTT (Leader of the House)

IN his Christmas message, our First Minister, Carwyn Jones, reflected on events in 2016, saying that these had: '*brought to the fore differences in opinion among families, friends and others about the future we want for our country. Let's make 2017 a year that unites us around one common purpose – to help each other lead the lives we want to lead, and to continue building a better Wales for all***.'**

My objective as an elected representative over the past 17 years has always been to try and find a common purpose – a common goal to work towards with people and communities in the Vale of Glamorgan.

One of the events of 2016 which many will never forget is the murder of Jo Cox MP.

Jo inspired people to believe in her and her values and she identified our common purpose; we will not forget her inaugural speech in Westminster when she said: "We are far more united and have more in common than that which divides us."

Those of us who have the privilege of serving in government, locally and nationally, know how important it is that we make the right decisions and choices, in the key areas of policy, legislation and finance where we have responsibility and power.

Getting this right for an annual Welsh Government budget is critical and we were able to announce additional funding before Christmas when the final budget for 2017-18 was laid on December 20 reflecting the discussions, debate and scrutiny of the draft budget laid in October.

The vote on the final budget takes place on January 10 and it will include an additional £136m for affordable housing developments, flooding schemes and regeneration projects across Wales.

All of these announcements are important for the Vale – with extra funding for priority flood risk schemes and the further £53m of capital funding for housing bringing a total of £1.36bn capital to help deliver the commitment of 20,000 more affordable homes over the next four years.

An announcement of an additional £40m for energy efficiency measures is also vitally important, as is the £6m towards homelessness prevention.

An extra £15m to support apprenticeship programmes which will go towards the target of providing 100,000 all-age apprenticeships over the lifetime of this Assembly.

As well as these capital allocations, there will be additional £10m funding for social care which I know will be welcome in the care sector and by all those who will benefit as we seek to integrate health and social care in Wales.

The dedication of those who care was brought home to me during my Christmas visits to College Fields Nursing Home and Orchard House in Barry and through meeting those involved in domiciliary care in the Vale – at Golau Caredig and the carers at Allied Health Care.

Of course, there will be many New Year resolutions we will seek to keep and honour as we look towards the opportunities, as well as uncertainties, of 2017, but we can always seek and find the common purpose in our lives and communities.

Before Christmas, Archbishop Barry Morgan spoke of our response towards the global refugee crisis. He thanked those organisations and people who are responding. That response is here in the Vale as well as the rest of Wales.

He said: "The grain of the universe is with people who show compassion and love."

Happy New Year – Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Wick, windmills, and white, wintry walks

SOME 57 stiles, five bridges and three gates lay ahead of the six walkers from Penarth and District Ramblers who joined Su G at the village of Wick on a glorious frosty morning underneath blue skies and bright sunshine for another in the annual Festival of Winter Walks.

Following the road to enter glittering white frosted fields containing sheep, a disgruntled heron flew up in disgust from a frozen pond as the route dropped down through fields to the delightful old buildings at Clemenstone Court. They progressed to the Victorian north lodge with a wait beside the railway line for a train to pass, fields led to the stone bridge over the Colwinston brook where a medieval village and church once stood.

A narrow sunken track led to Llampha Court and across fields to a pond where barren trees were silhouetted in the still water, for morning coffee in warm sunshine. Onwards through Llampha by road before waterlogged meadows led to St Michael and All Angels Church at Colwinston and on past the Sycamore Tree Inn and the new war memorial dedicated to four men lost in World War Two. All those local men who enlisted and fought in World War One returned home safely.

Crossing fields with clipped hedgerows led southwards to the mill race near Mill Farm at Llandow for lunch as clouds began to fill the skies. Heading up through Llandow village and crossing a dilapidated stone stile and past two horses clad in warm coats, ploughed and seeded meadows led back to the railway line.

Following a request from the leader, the overgrown pathways had been cleared by the Vale Council.

On the boggy ground which runs parallel with the Sutton brook and passing through the yard at the 16th century Sutton House – once owned by Edward Turberville – more cropped fields led back towards the windmill at Wick standing out on the horizon.

Then, to round off the day, a well-earned refreshing drink at the Lamb and Flag in Wick followed before the homeward journey.

The annual Festival of Winter Walks, which has been enhanced by the seasonal weather this year, draws to a close this coming weekend.

On January 7, *meet at 8.15am at Cogan Leisure Centre to share transport to catch the 9.35am bus at The Storey Arms for the journey to Brecon followed by an eight-mile moderate walk back to the Storey Arms; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.*

On January 8*, meet at 9am at Cogan for an eight-and-a-half mile circular moderate walk across Rhossili Bay to Llangennith with lunch at The King's Head halfway; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.*

To follow the group*, log on to www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.*

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The long stay patients need help to combat boredom...

THE Board of Community Health Councils in Wales has today published a report calling on Local Health Boards to do more to alleviate boredom and loneliness for older people experiencing lengthy stays in hospital.

A national survey of older people staying in community hospitals identified the importance of access to books, newspapers, crafts and hand held devices such as phones and tablets to enable people to keep themselves occupied and stay in touch.

Wards without space to share meals or activities contributed in some instances to people feeling bored and isolated.

Chair of the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales Mutale Merrill said: "NHS staff should challenge themselves and learn from each other to ensure that no one experiencing a long hospital stay finds themselves in a barren ward environment with little to do and nobody to talk to."

The report makes a number of recommendations including better use of technology, space on wards for shared activity and closer links with third sector organisations.

Go to the **Glamorgan GEM** website for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Panto cheque presented to Ty Hafan

Pictured left to right: Pam Alderman; Darren Payne; Matthew Tait; Alison Stallard, head of fundraising, Ty Hafan and Peter Ballantyne.

STAFF from Barratt Homes in south Wales were in the festive spirit when they presented local charity Ty Hafan with the proceeds from its fundraising efforts in 2016.

A series of events has raised more than £12,000 for the charity which aims to meet all the needs of life-limited children.

Events included staff successfully tackling the Welsh Three Peaks challenge and a charity golf day. "The support from staff has been tremendous with everyone really keen to take part or support the fundraising events to raise as much as possible for such an amazing charity."

Barratt Homes managing director Steve Williams said: "Every year the staff run a number of charity events for local causes and we're thrilled to have topped the £12,000 mark this year and the pantomime was the perfect opportunity to present the charity with the proceeds."

Natalie Whyatt, corporate partnership manager from Ty Hafan commented: "On behalf of all the staff and families at Ty Hafan, I'd like to thank Barratt Homes for their generosity and hard work in fundraising for us.

"It was also fantastic to see them join in with the fun at our Christmas pantomime. The money they have raised will make a world of difference to life-limited children, young people, and their families."

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Looking back over 2016... *and looking forward to 2017*

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I would like to begin by wishing all readers a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Last year was a difficult year in many respects, with austerity remaining an issue throughout the country and the implications of a Brexit vote and Donald Trump being elected as President of the USA still to take effect. Let's hope that things begin to improve and the effects of the above are not going to be too onerous.

On a brighter note, and despite all the issues we faced last year, we were very successful in many areas. I know that many of my political opponents and the usual people who constantly challenge the council don't like me saying so, but the facts speak for themselves... We have been extremely successful and continue to be the best performing council in Wales.

Therefore, as is customary, I am going to use my New Year column to revisit some of the high points of the last 12 months, before looking ahead to what's in store for the Vale in 2017.

However, before I do so, I'd like to clear up any confusion that may have been caused by the last issue of the Gem (December 22, 2016) in which a column written by Ogmore MP Christopher Elmore was incorrectly attributed to me. Although Chris and I share many views and opinions and have striven to achieve all that the Labour Party believe in, I cannot claim some of the things in his column like representing the views of the people of Bridgend in Westminster! I know that there was a genuine mistake made and the GEM has apologised to both of us. So, without further ado, here are my highlights from what was a very exciting 2016 for the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

One of our key areas of focus at the Vale of Glamorgan Council is always education, and 2016 saw the work of previous years bear fruit and even greater investment planned for the future, although the success was marred by the sad death of our Director of Learning and Skills, Jennifer Hill.

She is greatly missed by her friends and colleagues, but her legacy is plain for all to see and highlighted below.

The year started with some very good news for pupils, when our schools were rated as some of the best in Wales; almost half were placed in the top group, a figure that had more than doubled since January 2015. This news came in the same month that the Vale of Glamorgan was found by Estyn to have made the highest levels of progress possible since 2013 and meant that it was no surprise to anyone in the Civic Offices when pupils in the Vale recorded their best ever A-Level and GCSE results in August.

Pupils were again the focus of attention in March when First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, officially opened the Penarth Learning Community (PLC), the £50 million home of St Cyres Comprehensive School and Ysgol Y Deri special school in Penarth.

The PLC has been an undeniable success since it opened to pupils in 2015 and this was borne out in the excellent inspection report received by Ysgol Y Deri as the year drew to a close last December. We expect that there will be similar success for us all to celebrate in 2017.

Following on from the redevelopment in Penarth, my cabinet colleagues and I are due to open the new Llantwit Learning Community in the first half of the year.

We also expect the proposed £19 million investment into Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, coupled with a £44 million investment into two new English medium secondary schools in Barry should follow, depending upon further funding from Welsh Government.

Those of you that live in the Vale of Glamorgan will be well aware that we boast a huge number of parks and public spaces in the county and a new area of focus for the council's regeneration work in 2016 has been bringing many of these up to a higher standard.

As a result, the council has been recognised for its efforts and achieved seven Green Flag Awards in this year's Keep Wales Tidy awards, quite an achievement and all down to the tremendously hard work of our staff.

Apart from the larger gardens and parks, we have invested in our smaller, but no less important, play areas. These included the play areas at the Colcot, George Street, Maslin Park, along with the dog-free park and play area at the Hatch Quarry in Cadoxton Village, which reopened to the public after a six figure council investment in March. In June we announced that four parks in Penarth would be given a new lease of life as part of the same programme of work.

Then, in October, plans were announced plans that will see Gladstone Gardens and the play areas at Salisbury Road in Barry and the Cliff Top in Penarth receive the same treatment. This work is set to continue in 2017, so watch this space to find out if your local park is next on this list.

We learned last year that nearly four million tourists made a beeline for the Vale of Glamorgan during 2015, an increase of more than 5 per cent on the previous year. This is evidence (if anyone needed it) that tourism will always be of great importance to the Vale and so in 2016 the council continued to work to enhance its resorts and bring in more visitors.

One of the reasons for the increase in numbers was almost certainly the regeneration of Barry Island. This continued apace in 2016 and in April the council played its part in the launch of an open-top bus service that ran throughout the summer between the Island, the Knap and the centre of Barry. In May, we saw Whitmore Bay (along with Penarth Marina) pick up a Blue Flag Award for the quality of the bathing water and then we saw the year-long rentals for the, now iconic, beach huts sell out in a matter of hours.

In June, we made it possible for visitors to keep up with the Wales football team's progress in the Euros without leaving the sand, as the Island became the first beach in the country to offer free Wi-Fi to visitors. We expect more of the same across all of the council's resorts in 2017, as we seek to bring even more people to locations across the Vale and onto the doorsteps of the local businesses and traders that thrive on their custom.

Other highlights of 2016 for me have been the success of the community libraries, albeit there remains work to complete the transformation. This progress was coupled with the opening of the new adult education learning hub at Barry Library. I was also pleased to earmark a significant £2million investment into Vale leisure centres.

As I'm sure is clear from this column, I am hugely proud of all that was achieved in 2016, the year that also saw the Vale of Glamorgan Council ranked as the highest performing local authority in Wales for the second year running and receive a glowing assessment from the Wales Audit Office. Of course, it has to be said that this has been achieved, not only through the policies and commitment of this council's Labour / Llantwit First cabinet, but because of the dedication of our management team and staff in every directorate. So from me, a heartfelt and warm *'Thank You'* to all concerned. A council can only be as good as its workforce and we certainly have the best team here in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Finally, it is clear that 2017 will certainly bring fresh challenges and changes, but looking back at all that has been achieved in the last 12 months and since 2012, I am sure that the Vale of Glamorgan Council will continue to work with residents in all of our towns and villages to make the county an even better place to live, work and visit in 2017.

Once again, I wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Local people receive honours in the Queen's New Year list

A NUMBER of residents of the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs featured in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

The historian and broadcaster, **Professor Dai Smith**, who lives in Barry, received a CBE for services to arts and culture in Wales.

Four people received MBEs. They were:

• **Dennis Jones** from Bridgend, who was nominated for his services to Citizens Advice Bureau and the community in Bridgend.

Now 91 years of age, Mr Jones has been dispensing advice on behalf of the CAB for more than 25 years.

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns described him as an "inspiration to us all".

• **Ms Margaret Ellen Matthews,** formerly the managing director of Dow Corning in Barry, received her MBE for services to manufacturing in Wales.

• **Coun Anne Yvette Morgan**, JP, DL, who lives in Bridgend, was awarded her MBE to the community in south Wales.

• **David Smith** of Barry received his MBE for his work on developing the disability sport of Boccia in the Vale of Glamorgan.

*Finally, the British Empire Medal was awarded to Cowbridge's **Gweneira Baty**, for services to the community in Cowbridge and Llanblethian.*

The nomination made particular mention of her work with young people and the elderly.

OXFAM MUSIC SALE

THE Oxfam shop in Penarth will hold a half-price music sale on Saturday, January 7 from 9am including vinyl, CDs, DVDs, music books and sheet music.

Caroline Mumford, shop manager, said: "We are grateful to everyone who has donated goods and to our loyal customers.

"Vinyl has been popular this autumn and we are holding the sale to make space for new stock. We now put all our collectible items on the shelves as soon as possible."

The Oxfam shop plans to extend its vinyl range. Anyone with vinyl of any genre that they would like to donate can drop it in at 8a Windsor Road, Penarth. Large collections can. be picked up. More information on 02920 706358

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Dee 07733 267369

New Group
Wednesday 7.30pm from 4th January
Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

Mondays 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Cadoxton Moors Community Centre, off Cardiff Road, Barry
Julie 07903 585693

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Gilgal Church Hall Woodland Av, Porthcawl
Bev 07912 172674

Tuesdays 9.30am and 11.30am
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Tuesdays 5.30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola 01446 740394

Tuesday 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Cornelly Methodist Church (opp Cornelly Surgery)
Dee 07733 267369

Wednesdays 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen 07714 170908

Wednesdays 9.30am and 11.30am
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 01446 761150/ 07809 901008

Wednesdays 5.00pm
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 01446 761150/ 07809 901008

Thursdays 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill
Millie 07765 040006

Thursdays 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL
Nicola 01446 740394

Thursdays 5:30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Thursdays 9:30am
Nolton Church Hall, Merthyr-mawr Road, Bridgend
Donna 01656 669739

Thursdays 5:30pm
Pencoed R.F.C, Velindre Road, Bridgend
Donna 01656 669739

Thursday 9.30am
Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill
Millie 07765 040006

Thursdays 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Sarn and Bryncwils Social Club, Bryncoch Road, Sarn
Scott 07415 724562

Thursdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
The Cabin (Next to Swim Pool), Rear of Hebron Hall, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys
Linda 01446 761150/ 07809 901008

Fridays 9.30am and 11.30am
The Cabin (Next to Swim Pool), Rear of Hebron Hall, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys
Linda 01446 761150/ 07809 901008

Saturdays 8am and 10am
Nolton Church Hall, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend
Rachael 07809 626285

Saturdays 7.30am, 9.30am and 11.30am
Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

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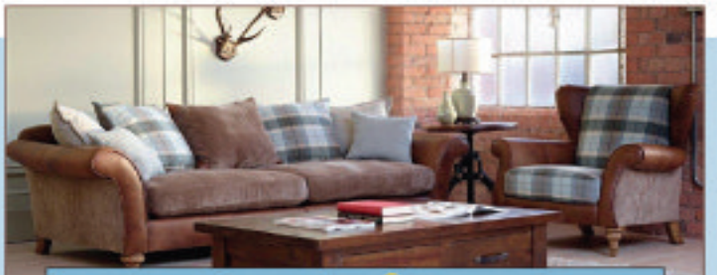

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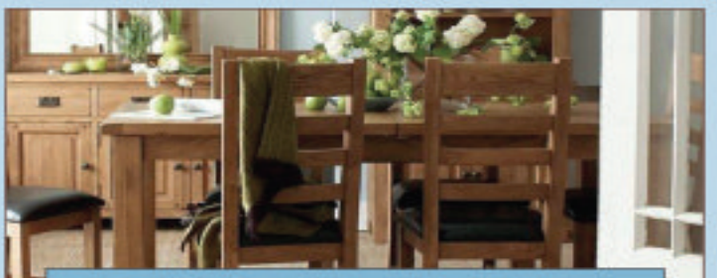

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As iconic year ends, challenging times ahead

by **CHRIS ELMORE,** MP for Ogmore

FIRSTLY, before I start my main column, I hope that everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and I hope you all enjoyed the New Year's festivities.

The old one has come to an end, a year which had some iconic moments, to say the least – the seemingly endless number of celebrity deaths, the Welsh Assembly election, and the Referendum, which saw the UK vote to leave the EU...

...All news stories that have implications on our lives, and all will be what 2016 is remembered for, one way or another.

During 2016, I opened a new foodbank in the constituency (something you may have read in a previous edition of The GEM).

Obviously, to open a service that is needed is a pleasure. The difficulty, however, was that a foodbank is needed in the community at all.

Something isn't working in our society if people are unable to feed themselves. Something isn't working when these foodbanks are a lifeline to so many people.

Something needs to change and we should all, as compassionate humans, be ashamed that these institutions exist.

That said, they are needed, and I'm so grateful and thankful that these volunteers give up so much of their time to help those most vulnerable.

Looking forward – 2017 has many challenges. The main one that springs to mind is that of what a Brexit Britain looks like.

I led a Westminster Hall debate on the impact of leaving the EU on businesses in Wales.

I was disappointed that the UK Government refused to answer on whether they would guarantee to replace EU funding that has not yet been underwritten by the Treasury.

No did I get an answer on what steps will be taken to ensure there is not a training shortage in Wales, once we've left the EU.

These are guarantees businesses need to plan for the future and I hope the Government becomes more transparent about it.

I'm not expecting a blow-by-blow account to the Brexit negotiations; however, I do expect transparency on something so important.

I wish all constituents a peaceful and healthy new year.

This reprinted article by Chris Elmore MP appeared in our December 22 issue under an incorrect byline.

Friends help to fundraise for Velindre!

RIGHT: Rachel Hammacott and friends with the cheque for Velindre Cancer Care.

RACHEL HAMMACOTT and her friends have helped to raise a fantastic £730 for Velindre Cancer Care at their recent Christmas party.

The charity is close to Rachel's heart as her mother Pam Hitchcock from Llantwit Major was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer recently through an early detection at the breast cancer mobile unit.

One of Rachel's friends, Pauline Woodward, has also undergone treatment this year and her daughter Heather has taken action by signing up to a trek in Peru with comedian Rhod Gilbert and local weatherman Derek Brockway.

Heather was thrilled with the amount raised which will be going towards her £6,000 target to participate.

She is planning further fundraising events in the New Year,including a charity auction and an Elvis Presley evening, more information can be found on https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Heather-Woodward3

Ho-ho-helicopter

SANTA made a surprise visit to Tŷ Hafan – to deliver presents to children (with the help of the Wales Air Ambulance).

Families at the hospice in Sully were told there would be a Christmas party with games, food and a visit from someone extra special. But while some might have guessed Santa would be coming to join in the festive celebrations, they didn't expect him to arrive by helicopter.

Wales rugby star Leigh Halfpenny also visited fans at the hospice, based in Sully, and helped Santa hand out presents to add to the surprises of the day.

Angela Hughes, chief executive of Wales Air Ambulance, said: "The families at Tŷ Hafan had no idea Santa would be coming to see them, or that they'd be able to see our helicopter land right outside their windows, so it really was a surprise when he turned up with Leigh Halfpenny.

"The children were so excited to meet Santa and receive presents from him, especially as he made such a dramatic entrance by coming down from the sky.

"We are pleased to add a little bit of extra magic to families at Tŷ Hafan this Christmas."

A flying visit from Santa to the children at Ty Hafan.

Plans for old church opposed

COUN Rhona Probert will be speaking tonight (Thursday, January 5) at the Vale Planning Committee meeting, against the proposal to turn the old United Reformed Church on Windsor Road into flats and offices, without including any parking on site.

She said: "I'm not against developing this site and saving the building, but there's already a parking problem here and around the school, and on High Street and Broad Street, and to put in so many flats and offices without any off-road parking is completely unreasonable.

"I want to thank the WRAP Around group who have worked really hard to get the views of local residents across to the planners, and I congratulate them on the quality of their campaign."

Get Back on Track for a fresh start!

THE new year is a good time to think about making some changes, improving your skills and qualifications, look for a new job or simply to improve your confidence and self-esteem.

The Vale Council 'Get Back on Track' programme provides a wide variety of courses right across the Vale in partnership with other organisations.

The courses are free to those eligible and a free crèche is provided at some centres.

Courses take place in Barry at both Palmerston Community Learning Centre and at the new Vale Learning Centre on the first floor of the Barry Library.

You can also learn at a whole range of venues across the Vale including Jobcentres and libraries in Penarth and Llantwit and Community Centres in St Athan, Penarth and Rhoose.

There are a wide range of computer skills workshops on offer with the chance to learn the basic ICT skills that you will need in almost any workplace or you can progress to further ICT courses in Excel, web design or PC maintenance.

You can gain an Agored, OCR or even an ECDL qualification.

For jobseekers, weekly workclubs throughout the Vale are available to support your job search and help with CVs and applications.

New courses in hairdressing and beauty and childcare and health and social care are an ideal stepping stone to further education and training.

Whether you are looking for employment or volunteering opportunities, there are a range of short 'Workwise' courses in hospitality, reception and customer service, and health and safety, while British Sign Language, communication and creative writing will give you the skills you need and enhance your CV.

'Get Back on Track' courses will help improve your confidence and self esteem and help you to consider your next step.

Reading, writing and maths are essential skills that help you get on in work and life in general. If you want to improve your skills or if you don't have any qualifications, then this is the place to start. Classes at all levels are available at the new Vale Learning Centre.

You can start at any time and attend when it suits you, either day or evening.

For more information on new courses starting in your local area, pick up a course list from Vale Council buildings or libraries; online at www.gbotfree.org or call the Palmerston centre on 01446 733762.

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"Face 2017's opportunities and challenges with optimism"

WITH each new year comes an opportunity to reflect and to look to the future.

The last 12 months have been challenging at times, but the year closes with every reason to feel confident for the year ahead, and there were notable moments in 2016 which left us with so many reasons to feel great pride.

After 58 years, a Welsh team reached a major football championship – making history, and friends, at every step of the way.

We mustn't forget the wonderful efforts of our Olympians and Paralympians, proudly representing Wales as part of a hugely successful Team GB effort in Rio.

The efforts of Gareth Bale, Jade Jones, Becky James and countless others will inspire a new generation of Welsh children to take up sport and to wear the national shirt with pride.

In many ways, 2016 was a momentous year for Wales – and for the United Kingdom as a whole.

While it started with the shadow of TATA looming large overhead for the families of Port Talbot, there are at last positive signs of the rewards of working together – with a deal on the table that could provide a sustainable future for Wales' largest steel plant.

Yet where 2016 ends with reasons to be optimistic about the future, 2017 must represent a red line for the Welsh Labour government.

Devolution is not to blame for Wales' poor GVA figures, or for Pisa results which show just how far behind the rest of the UK the Welsh education system is; that responsibility lies squarely with the First Minister.

After 17 years of devolution, it is clear that in the three main devolved competences, the Welsh Government has failed to make adequate improvements.

Whether measured in terms of economic development, educational performance or health outcomes. 2017 must be 'make or break' for a First Minister who has had seven years to turn things around.

He needs to show the public that his government has reached its low water mark in terms of delivery, and that the tide is starting to turn.

For the country as a whole it is without question Brexit that poses the greatest challenge – and opportunity – in 2017.

The Prime Minister has been clear that the result of the referendum will be respected, and that negotiations will commence promptly once Article 50 has been triggered in March. She should be supported.

The Welsh Labour Government must now show greater leadership.

The First Minister and his colleagues have become too preoccupied with Article 50, and have spent too long coming to terms with the result of the referendum. We now need to see a positive and productive approach to shaping our new relationship with Europe.

With more than £1 billion of structural funding yet to be allocated between now and 2020, there is a need to consider how this money can best be spent to deliver economic growth. There are challenges, but there are also huge opportunities for the Welsh economy.

Just as important is the challenge faced by all of us in 2017: to heal a fractured society. Despite the rhetoric, our democracy isn't broken.

Far from it. Some 33 million people – 72.2 per cent of the electorate – voted in the EU referendum; we just need to work harder to bridge the gap between groups in society who disagree.

It's considered 'progressive' to preach the values of tolerance and diversity, but tolerance and diversity must also extend to those who hold opinions with which we do not agree.

We have to accept when a majority of the public does not share our world view, for it is far better to have a democracy that doesn't always go your way than the alternative.

This country of ours has bags of potential lying dormant and incredible opportunities lay ahead. In 2017, let's pull together and secure a brighter future for Wales.

My very best wishes to everyone in Wales for a prosperous and successful 2017!

Andrew R T Davies,
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives

RNLI VOLUNTEERS SAVE STRANDED FISHERMEN FROM SKER POINT ROCKS

The fishing boat's hull was found washed up on the beach the following morning.

RNLI members from Porthcawl acted fast last week when a fishing boat was caught on rocks at Sker Point by the heavy seas.

Porthcawl RNLI volunteer crew were paged by UK Coastguards at 5.38pm on Friday, December 30, following reports that a small boat with two persons aboard had run aground on rocks at Sker Point.

An RNLI spokesman said: "Both lifeboats were launched and arrived on scene, two miles north west of the station at 5.50pm.

"Conditions were such that there was no natural light and a white parachute flare was fired and the lifeboat crew located the outline of a small boat on the rocks with waves washing over it, causing it to roll over on its side.

"With the Atlantic 85, *Rose of the Shires*, brought as close as was safe to the casualty vessel, Chris Page and Dan Jones left the lifeboat and managed to scramble through the water to locate and confirm that there were two casualties aboard.

"With the assistance of the SAR helicopter, which had just arrived on scene minutes earlier both casualties were winched off the vessel due to the unsafe sea conditions and terrain.

"Lifeboat crew who had given brief first aid checks confirmed that both casualties were exhausted and cold, and one had suffered head injuries.

"The helicopter was landed at Sker Point while further medical attention was administered by the air crew.

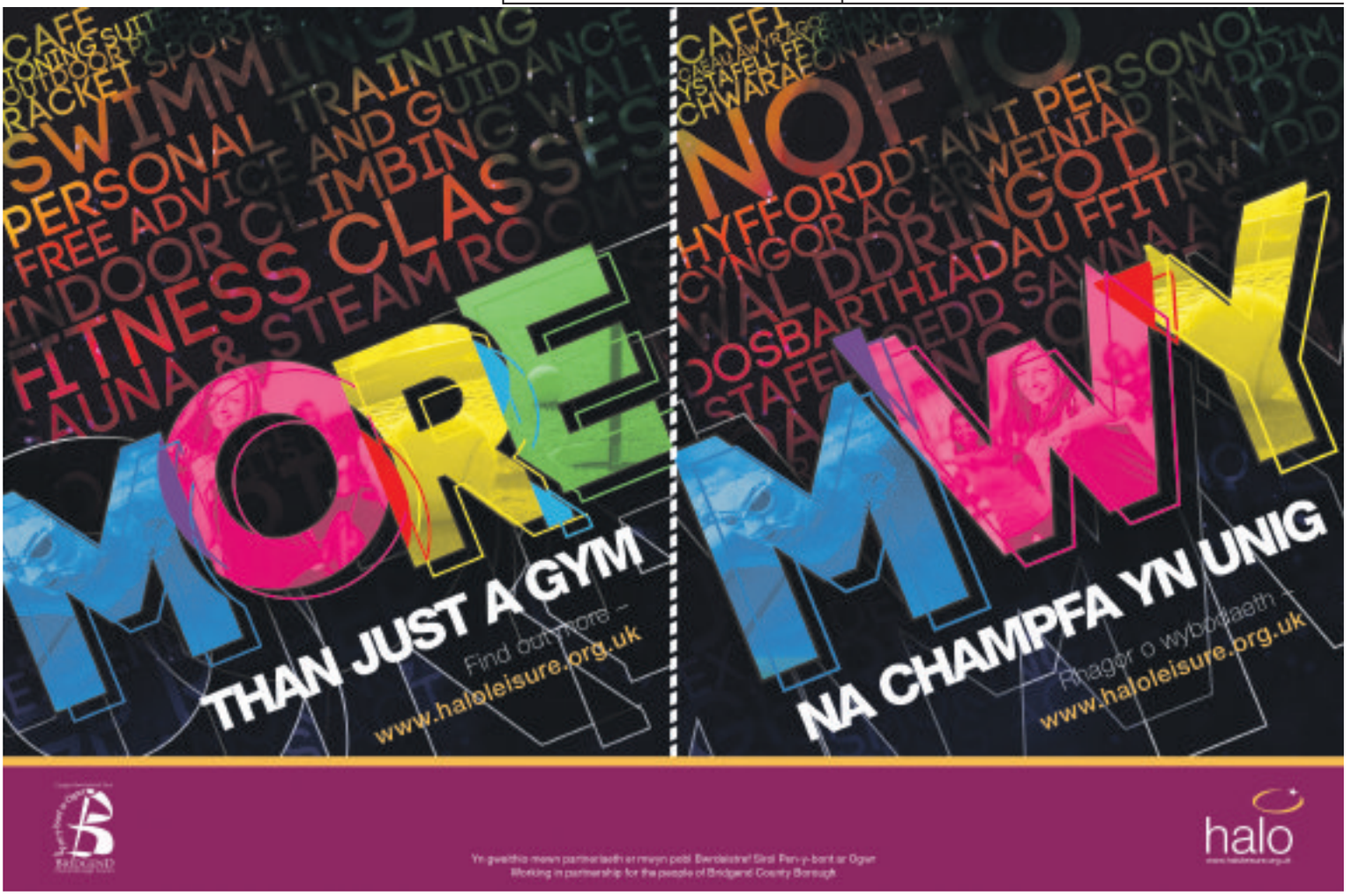
"Mumbles lifeboat, which had also been launched to assist, was stood down and returned to station. Meanwhile, Porthcawl lifeboats remained on scene until the helicopter flew one casualty to Morriston Hospital.

"With surf conditions on the beach poor and in complete darkness, it was decided that it would be safer for the two Porthcawl crew who had gone ashore to be transported back to the lifeboat station by Porthcawl Coastguard unit."

Lifeboat operations manager Phil Missen, said: "Both casualties were extremely lucky to have been rescued in the complete darkness and from the notoriously dangerous Sker Point.

"I dread to think how difficult a search would have been had the casualties not been able to stay with their stricken vessel.

"The rescue was a multi-agency effort where all teams worked together under the UK Coastguard Agency, fortunately with a positive outcome."



Screen Talk's top ten films of 2016

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

IT'S been a funny old year, 2016. A year of sad loss, strange political decisions and general craziness, one of the only ways to deal with it was to hunker down in a darkened room and immerse yourself in the world of film.

Yet again the blockbuster season had an underwhelming feeling to it, critically if not necessarily commercially, but overall it was a year of some golden films, the top ten of which have been assembled for your perusal – feel free to get in touch with your favourites via Twitter, @GEMScreenTalk.

So with a drum roll, and a sense of anticipation not seen since November's American election, let's dive headfirst into the top ten of 2016.

10. *Everyone Wants Some!!* – Richard Linklater's 1970s college-set comedy had a freewheeling style, likeable characters and an indelible sense of fun, backed with one of the best soundtracks of the year. A blast of sunshine, undercut with a sense of making the most of your youth, Everybody should want some of this film!

9. *Captain America: Civil War* – Juggling more characters than you could shake a stick at, numerous plot strands that both lingered from previous Marvel outings and set up future instalments, *Civil War* had no right to be as lean, spritely and satisfying as it was. In a year where DC underperformed critically, Marvel reasserted itself as the top dog with this wonderful film.

8. *Hunt For The Wilderpeople* – Taika Waititi's hilarious story of a foster child who, through circumstances, finds himself on the run with his foster father was hilarious and touching. Sam Neill was superb as the grouchy man saddled with his 'son', newcomer Julian Dennison incredible as the troubled youngster with a penchant for gangster chic – a must-see film.

7. *Anomalisa* – If you thought stop-motion was for youngsters only, *Anomalisa* was the film to change your mind. From the mind of Charlie Kaufman (who also co-directed with Duke Johnson), this story of mid-life crisis was indelible, the presentation lending a fragile and beautiful wooziness to a film that spoke to the human condition.

6. *The Hateful Eight* – Quentin Tarantino's chamber piece was a gory, funny and immensely watchable slice of cinema. Its narrative kept you guessing, the cast were on excellent form, and the director seemed as vital as ever in this grand-guignol Western.

5. *Room* – Lenny Abrahamson's compelling story cemented Brie Larson as one of the finest actresses working today and saw a truly exception performance from young Jacob Tremblay. The subject matter wasn't light (woman is kidnapped and left in the titular room with her son, fathered by the kidnapper) but Abrahamson deftly wound together a story that was oddly, yet compellingly, affirming.

4. *10 Cloverfield Lane* – Perhaps the biggest surprise of the year, this was a small-budget film called *Valencia*, but a name change later (and folding it into the *Cloverfield* universe) gave it a widespread release and one of the tensest, edge-of-your-seat films of the year.

A three-hander, with stunning turns from Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Gallagher Jr and a fearsome John Goodman, it was a film that got under your skin and stayed there.

3. *Hell Or High Water* – A rugged contemporary Western, this was a powerful film from director David Mackenzie, a slow-burning morality story where the actions of two bank-robbing brothers are met with a grudging acceptance and the officer on their tail is a grizzled and excellent Jeff Bridges. This well-worn tale was an incredible piece of filmmaking.

2. *Arrival* – Before *Arrival,* Denis Villeneuve had yet to make a poor film – his 100 per cent record continued after this affirming slice of sci-fi, an emotionally-engaging story of alien contact and personal sacrifice.

Anchored by Amy Adams' superb turn, *Arrival* may have benefited from being released in the slipstream of Donald Trump's victory, but it was a film that was smart and captivating, exceptionally told.

1. *Spotlight* – Your Best Picture Oscar winner, and hugely deserved, *Spotlight* was a hard-hitting true-story tale of sexual abuse covered up, with a newspaper team bringing the truth, and the abusers, to justice. A true ensemble, led by the impeccable Michael Keaton, *Spotlight* was a powerful, dense viewing experience.

Dashed lucky! Festive pup finds his new home

MANY people spent Christmas at home with families, but it was 'business as usual' for staff at the Dogs Trust Bridgend rehoming centre as they spent the festive season caring for a Dachshund pup handed in on Christmas Day.

Dasher.

The nine-week-old pup, named after the fictional reindeer Dasher, was handed in because his owners were sadly unable to keep him.

Dasher spent Christmas enjoying lots of fun and games at the centre, but lived up to his name and quickly found a new home.

Angela Wetherall, Dogs Trust Bridgend rehoming centre manager, said: "Christmas is always a really busy time for us, but we had staff on hand to take in the puppy and care for him over the festive period. In this case, the owners acted responsibly by bringing him to us to find a home for him, but we see so many unwanted puppies simply abandoned because they were born as a result of the parents not being neutered.

"Neutering is hugely important to avoid situations like this occurring, and saves the heartbreak of giving up an unwanted litter when owners realise they are unable to care for them."

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Craig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Moral duty to help others in need'

I REFER to the letters in The GEM's December 22 edition, concerning overseas aid.

It is obvious to anyone that we have a high degree of poverty in Britain.

Sadly, we have all witnessed foodbanks, Christmas toy appeals, people living in cardboard boxes, and Salvation Army soup kitchens.

Thankfully, what we do not witness are children drinking from polluted streams, this being their only water supply; abandoned and orphan children living in railway stations; children dying of starvation and all manner of diseases, due to lack of medical treatment, medicines and vaccines; children and the elderly blinded by eye infections, again due to lack of treatment.

Obviously, we must give all the help we can to people suffering here at home; but we have a moral duty not to abandon those millions of people in far worse conditions out there in the Third World.

Anne Sprinks,
Dinas Powys.

Sphere of influence

YET again, the elected representative to the Westminster Parliament dedicates his GEM column to matters that he has no influence over!

Mr Alun Cairns MP constantly ignores the fact that in a devolved Welsh Assembly we have elected AMs (along with local councillors) to campaign on our behalf on local issues.

In criticising local business rates policy, he is taking the opportunity to express his personal dislike of a Welsh Labour administration.

We elected Alun to Westminster to represent the Vale on UK-wide issues, of which there are many under this unelected Prime Minister and her new policies.

As a member of the Government and, in fact, as Welsh Minister, he is in a very strong position to influence policy on our behalf, but he would rather meddle in parish affairs.

Can we expect Alun to have a New Year resolution... concentrate on Brexit and its impact on the Welsh economy, the funding for Wales from London, the rise in homelessness, and the need for foodbanks, support for the disabled and those in need of social care?

Steve Reed,
Rhoose.

Appeal over parking fine

THE criticism of the effects of the new parking arrangements at Barry Hospital are well justified. I have incurred a penalty for failing to register my car on December 5, against which I have appealed on the following grounds:

I have been to the hospital very many times. Each time, I have parked in the blue badge area, gone to the appropriate department, returned to my car, and driven away.

It has become a familiar, habitual routine. To me, December 5 was no different. I am told by Parking Eye that there was signage to explain the procedure and penalties; however, there was no reason why I should have looked at the signage, when I was doing a familiar and habitual thing.

Parking Eye failed to recognise that this would occur. What should have been done, is for departmental staff to be told to draw their patient's attention to the scheme.

It is a repeat of the hue and cry which followed the introduction of the same procedure at Brewers Fayre, which you reported.

(Name and address supplied).

DISABLED PATIENT'S £70 PARKING FINE

I READ about the fines for parking at Barry hospital with interest, as I am a disabled blue badge holder.

I parked in the area designated for blue badge holders only and made my way into the hospital, as I have done every four weeks for the past three years,

I have a 9am appointment so as to be able to get a parking place near the entrance to the hospital – as I am unable to walk long distances.

Five days after my appointment, I received a parking fine of £70, which is half my weekly pension; if I pay this fine, I will have to cut down on food and heating, so I have appealed.

It wasn't until I got The GEM on Thursday that I found out about having to put the registration number of the car into a machine. Why isn't a notice on the sign stating '*Blue Badge Holders Only*'?

As for the quote in The GEM that it is to stop people parking and going shopping, I think that they are at the wrong hospital – there are no shops anywhere nearby. The fine will not be getting paid.

If it went to the NHS, then I would think twice, but would still feel unhappy.

R W Leitch,
Barry.

Fines at hospital

ALL you have to do regarding parking fines is ring the telephone number beginning with 333.

There you have the option to pay or cancel.

I'm certainly not paying anything at all.

Dinah M Thomas,
Barry.

'Shoppers would not park at Barry Hospital'

I READ with despair the comments made by Geoff Walsh, as director of capital estates and planning at the local health board.

To suggest that the car parking arrangements at Barry Hospital are there to deter people who use the parking purely for shopping in the town, is pure nonsense.

Who on earth is going to use the car park and then face a downhill/uphill walk to the town centre at a distance of a good mile away or so, particularly when there is more than enough off-road parking in and around the town?

Come off it, Mr Walsh, and stop using the services of Parking Eye as a way of generating more revenue.

By the way, the Assembly Government has abolished, as far as possible, car parking charges where there is no remaining contractual obligations.

So what is the problem?

C D Bates,
Dinas Powys.

'Parking at Barry hospital is good'

HAVING read the above in The GEM, I would like to applaud the new system.

I too am a pensioner (83).

It is a treat to be able to park easily. I am a frequent patient and find the signage adequate and the warning notice was in place last November so visitors and patients had sufficient warning of the procedure.

Brian Allen,
Barry.

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BUSINESS WASTE
Do you know your responsibilities?

Did you know? Businesses have a legal 'Duty of Care' to ensure that their waste and recycling is managed correctly from the point of production to the point of disposal.

Some key aspects of the duty require businesses to:

- Keep waste to a minimum by doing everything they reasonably can to prevent, reuse and recycle waste;
- Sort and store waste safely and securely;
- Complete a waste transfer note for waste that leaves their premises;
- Check if their waste carrier is registered to dispose of waste;
- Not allow the waste carrier to dispose of their waste illegally.

Failure of a business to meet their Duty of Care requirements is a criminal offence.

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- Trefnu a storio gwastraff yn ddiogel;
- Cwblhau nodyn trosglwyddo gwastraff ar gyfer gwastraff sy'n gadael y safle;
- Sicrhau bod y cludwr gwastraff wedi'i gofrestru er mwyn gwaredu gwastraff;
- Peidio â chaniatáu i'r cludwr gwastraff waredu gwastraff yn anghyfreithlon.

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AN EMOTIVE MEETING FOR THE VALE'S YOUTH MAYOR

EMOJi students, the Youth Mayor, and Vale Council staff.

THE Youth Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Daniel Marshall, a pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, officially represented the Mayor at a presentation evening for the Youth Service.

The 'Emoji's project' is a 10-week course run in partnership with the Families First FACT team and the Vale Council's Youth Service.

The project is split into two groups, junior (eight to 12 years old) and senior (13-16 years old) and the project aims to 'empower young people to express themselves and to build their confidence and self-esteem levels'.

The project is to help young people learn to 'disclose their feelings in a safe manner and enable them to form better relationships with peers and family members'.

"Young Daniel enjoyed the event very much and was very pleased to listen, share and discuss with the young people their experiences of the group,"a spokesperson reported..

Aviation group to hear all about naval power

ON December 6, the Penarth Aviation Society held its annual Christmas social at the Penarth Conservative Club, when an excellent evening's entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday (January 6), when PAS member Ed Oliver, a former chief petty officer with the Fleet Air Arm, will be giving a talk entitled *'Flying off the Sea – The Early Years'* in which we will be taken back over 100 years to the days when the idea of flying itself was new, let alone flying off ships!

Naval power in those far off days consisted of the Dreadnought style of vessel, where one huge ship hurled massive shells at equally large enemy ships.

Getting a better view of your opponent's fleet was crucial – hence, as with the Royal Flying Corps over the battlefields of France, getting a better view over the horizon was paramount.

Conditions for the pilots were difficult to say the least, but without these valiant pioneers, modern fleets with the flexibility given by the aircraft carrier would be vastly different and far less efficient.

The meeting will take place at Penarth Conservative Club at 7:45pm for 8pm.

Why not join the society? We meet on the first Friday of the month at the Penarth club. Visitors are welcome to attend.

Further information may be found on our Website at: www.penarthaviationsociety.co.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/penarthaviationsociety.co.uk

DE

Young talent to the fore at Music concert

MUSIC in the Vale held a pre-Christmas concert in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, with young people (aged eight to 23), who had won special recognition at their competition in November at Stanwell School, Penarth.

The concert was sponsored by Watts and Morgan Estate Agents, Cowbridge, and their help was very much appreciated by Music in the Vale, as it gave performance opportunities to the very talented young musicians and singers that Wales is producing.

A past winner of Music in the Vale's annual competition has proved how important these performance opportunities are to young people embarking on a musical career. Ben Tarlton delighted the audience with his classical interpretation of the 'Boccherini Sonata' and Tchaikovsky's 'Valse Sentimentale'.

Since winning Music in the Vale's competition, Ben has attended the Yehudi Menuhin School and won a scholarship to Guildhall in London.

Peter Greenwood, playing the tuba, joined Ben in a seasonal duet.

Further details of the next concert in January, may be found on the website www.musicinthevale.org.uk.

SUE TAYLOR

Divas make it a musical show to cherish

IT was the largest gathering of Welsh divas for some time – and it proved to be a musical event that will be celebrated for a long time to come.

If you weren't there at Venue Cymru, Llandudno for the great spectacular, featuring 10 of Wales' foremost sopranos and mezzo sopranos, you can enjoy all the glamour and great music on S4C in the show *Cyngerdd y 10 Difa* on Sunday, 8 January.

The ten divas who came to Llandudno just before Christmas, included Ellen Williams from Bridgend, plus a full symphony orchestra led by conductor Andrew Greenwood.

Ellen Williams from Bridgend.

The Ten Divas event follows the success of the Ten Tenors concert last Christmas at Venue Cymru.

Digital stories offer views on children of service personnel

TWO powerful films and a bank of digital stories were launched in November at the Pierhead, Cardiff Bay, to raise awareness of what life is like for children of those serving in HM Armed Forces in Wales.

The films have been made by pupils, parents and staff at Llantwit Major High School and Prendergast Community Primary School with support from the Ministry of Defence, the Army Families Federation, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Storyworks UK.

The initiative has been coordinated by the Welsh Local Government Association's Supporting Service Children in Education Cymru project.

Storyworks UK also ran workshops with pupils that would allow them to share their own stories about what it's like to have a parent in the Armed Forces, these workshops were then turned into a bank of two minute digital stories capturing the children's experiences.

All the films will be available on the project website www.sscecymru.co.uk

'A Monster Calls' is majestic, emotional, and very powerful

DIRECTOR J A Bayona has impressed since breaking through with Spanish-language thriller *The Orphanage* in 2007. His take on the 2004 tsunami disaster, *The Impossible*, proved he could handle spectacle and emotion, perfect training for his latest film, *A Monster Calls*, based on Patrick Ness' book.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

It tells the story of Conor (Lewis MacDougall), a boy whose mother (played by Felicity Jones) is terminally ill, and who is forced to live with his less-than-pleasant grandma (Sigourney Weaver).

With his home life stretched to breaking point, and his school life no better, Conor seeks comfort in a monster (voiced by Liam Neeson), and begins to process his feelings with the help of the monster...

A film about a boy visited by a talking, walking tree should be something that you find in a children's story – however, *A Monster Calls*' subject matter is hardly the most kiddie-friendly material. That, though, is not a problem in the slightest, in a film that speaks to all, regardless of age, and a story that tugs and pulls at the heartstrings throughout.

Director J A Bayona's previous film, *The Impossible*, was one that hit the notes of mawkishness a little too often, but it's a charge that can't be levied at this film, Bayona orchestrating proceedings with a sure and firm hand.

He wastes no time in establishing the key tenets of the story, and thanks to a screenplay by Patrick Ness (adapting his own book with aplomb) which is tightly written, you are instantly hurtled into the world of young Conor. Bullied at school, and dealing with his mother's cancer, the character is one full of rage and anger, and Lewis MacDougall brings him to life exceptionally well.

It's a performance that is never showy or overstated, but pitched beautifully, and as Conor's relationship with the monster and his mother's illness deteriorates, MacDougall fills Conor with hard-fought sympathy and emotion.

It's a well-cast film, with Felicity Jones equally as impressive as Conor's mother, her love for him shining in the darkest of moments, while Liam Neeson's mellifluous tones fit the role of the monster down to the ground.

The likes of Sigourney Weaver and Toby Kebbel round out an excellent cast, but it's MacDougall who lingers the longest, Conor never outwardly playing the victim despite the circumstances that surround him.

Patrick Ness' book came from an idea by Siobhan Dowd, a writer who sadly succumbed to cancer before Ness' book came out, but you can see from the film the impact the idea had, the portrayal of cancer and those suffering from it, both directly and indirectly, is unflinchingly portrayed and not given short shrift by Bayona in the director's chair.

The Spanish director's decision to not soft-soak any element of this story means that the visceral finds itself rubbing up against the fantasy, but Bayona's full-on commitment leaves neither element short, with the sequences involving the monster stunningly realised, while the 'three stories' element is given a different feel using watercolour animation, giving the film another texture.

It's the way the film slowly builds towards the climax, the way strands and elements fit inside one another, that is *A Monster Calls*' strength – Bayona and Ness weave together these elements to make something majestic and beautiful, heart-wrenching and emotional. The result is an absolute triumph of a film.

VERDICT: A film that straddles the line between fantasy and the harsh realities of life, *A Monster Calls* is an incredibly powerful and moving piece of work. The cast, especially lead Lewis MacDougall, are excellent, while J A Bayona's direction is both intimate and expansive. Pulling the heartstrings without overcooking the sentiment, this is a film that will linger with you. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Pan's Labyrinth (2006), *Coraline* (2009).

TOYS AND TRAINS

THE collectors' bonanza reaches then Vale when the toy and train sale arrives at Penarth Leisure Centre at Cogan between 10.30am and 3pm on Saturday, January 7. Three further dates have also been booked at this venue for 2017. Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579, or visit www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk for more information.

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Agency's festive hampers for the vulnerable and the elderly

ABOVE: Anne Lintern receives the donated hampers. BELOW: staff with Jane Hutt AM.

ALLIED Healthcare, a domiciliary care agency based in Barry, raised funds to make 12 Christmas hampers to donate to local community day centre Rondel House, as well as raising funds for Age Connects.

Margaret Codd, branch manager explained: "We care for vulnerable, elderly clients on a daily basis and at this time of year it is sad to see clients who have no family or friends at Christmas. It made perfect sense that the carer event committee decided to raise donations to create Christmas hampers for vulnerable adults living in the Vale of Glamorgan who spend Christmas alone."

The committee decided to donate the hampers to Rondel House day centre to pass these on to those they felt the most vulnerable, which included clients who visit their centre or receive 'meals on wheels'.

On December 22, Anne Lintern, manager of Rondel House Day Centre, visited Allied Healthcare to receive the donated hampers. Jane Hutt AM also visited and was delighted with the work the committee had done in helping those this Christmas.

A further £45 was raised from a raffle, which will be donated to Age Connects, which supports thousands of local older people.

We wish to thank the staff for their donations and the committee for going beyond their duty of care to make this fantastic donation, in making vulnerable people feel less alone this Christmas.

We also wish to thank Aldi, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Spar, Waitrose, One Stop and Universal Hair Studios for their generous support to help us show the true meaning of Christmas – sharing is caring! **NT**

ESME LOVES A FUSS AND A CUDDLE...

DOG OF THE WEEK is Esme, a five-year-old greyhound with lots of energy, who enjoys her time off the lead and mixes well with other dogs her size.

Esme's ideal home would be with people who have had dogs before, and she can live with children over eight years of age.

Esme loves a fuss and a cuddle and a game of chase – so if you are a fan of greyhounds, Esme could be the answer to your dreams!

If you would like further information, visit the Dogs Trust website, or call 01656 725219.

Memories of a Welsh childhood during Second World War

by TOM CLEMETT

THE early 1940s were the most important part of the war for us, the children of Barry. This was the time when the Americans arrived and were stationed at a camp in Hayes Road, Sully.

Children from the surrounding area were often invited to their cinema shows, given sweets and chocolate and the inevitable chewing gum.

For adults in Barry (mainly female), their dances were very well patronised.

To us youngsters they seemed to have an abundant supply of everything that was rationed.

The first air raid on Barry was in April 1941. Houses at the west end of the town and a number in the Barry Road and Witchell Estate areas were hit.

During the raid, incendiary bombs rained down on Cadoxton Moors and at Porthkerry Park.

A few months later, a dog-fight over the channel between a Spitfire and a German plane could be seen from Victoria Park.

The German plane was shot down to the cheers of a group of parents and children who were watching the action taking place.

While living on the Moors one of the older boys, Joey Bunkham, used to boast that he had saved the houses on the Moors from being blown up.

It wasn't until a few years ago, that I found out that he was telling the truth and that he had never got the credit for it.

What happened was that during the raid on the Moors, incendiary bombs were dropped and a number landed on the top of the gasometer at the end of Laura Street. Joey and a friend climbed up onto the top of the structure and kicked the bombs onto the ground.

Another event in the '40s was the coming ashore at Barry Island of a ship carrying oranges and other foodstuffs.

It must have had a hold full of oranges – as well as being slightly bitter, they also tasted oily. It wasn't until after the war that we realised that all oranges weren't sour and didn't have an oily taste; the oranges that came ashore were destined for the manufacture of marmalade. After the Barry Island incident, it was discovered that the destructor in Barry Road was being used to destroy tins of food from the camp at Sully.

These tins were either out of date, the labels had come off, or were suspected of being contaminated.

Every night the walls around the site were lined with youngsters awaiting their chance to acquire something from the yard. Tins of corned beef and SPAM were favourites.

If a seven pound tin of corned beef was acquired, it was corned beef hash, corned beef pasties, corned beef sandwiches for work, and finally, if any was left, into the soup it went to add a bit of flavour.

In another raid on Barry, landmines were dropped and two landed in the docks. One exploded killing a watchman on a ship being repaired in the dock; the other failed to explode but was recovered after the war and taken out in the channel and detonated.

Another landed in Dock View Road and it wasn't until a long time after the war had finished that the buildings where it had landed were finally demolished.

A total of just over 20 raids took place during the war over Barry and its surrounding area. It was said that Barry had escaped the worst of the raids because Barry was to be the chosen port for the invasion of Britain!

As the war progressed, prisoners of war appeared in Barry. They were mainly in camps on the Port Road. There were Germans, Italians and Mongol troops.

The Italians, and later some Germans, were allowed to work on the local farms. They were picked up by lorry and dropped off at the farms; some later acquired bicycles and were allowed to make their own way back and forth.

The Mongolian PoWs worked on the docks in Cardiff and were taken to work by lorry. After the war they were sent back to Russia, where it was said they were all executed.

D-DAY

Preparations for D-Day led to the build-up of troops in the area and equipment was stockpiled all around Barry.

More and more smoke screen canisters appeared around the town. These were lit at the onset of an air raid and gave off a thick black oily smoke.

A large number were made at the Barry Enamel Works (Fellows, Chamberlin Ltd.) and after the war they were given the trade name 'Salamander' and modified to be used to heat workshops and garages.

After they had been used, every house in the vicinity was covered with oily smudges. Sometimes these salamanders caught fire and it was the job of the air raid warden to extinguish the flames. You could always tell who had had that job by his singed eyebrows and hair.

There was a portable battery of these smoke screen canisters that at various times would be transported around the town, depending on the direction of the wind.

If it was blowing from the Colcott area towards the docks and a raid was imminent, a battery of canisters would be placed near Romilly Schools; if the wind was coming off the sea, they would be situated on Barry Island.

Nearer D-Day, convoys of troops arrived, some by road, but many more by rail. They camped in Porthkerry Park, on the Moors and the Port Road at the top of the link road near the Half Moon Bend.

Barry Island was turned into a huge parking lot for landing craft. One day, the beach was covered with them, the following day they had all disappeared.

Tom Edge Pond had what looked like hundreds of empty oil drums floating on it. This was the 'Lily Pad', a similar one was used as a floating roadway at Normandy, allowing vehicles to be driven straight off the ships and on to the beach. It could also be used as a runway to allow the take-off and landing of air observation-post flights.

A few days before D-Day, the channel was alive with activity; Dock View Road and Victoria Park were two of the best vantage points.

Barry was one of the main Bristol Channel shipping ports for the invasion and over 20 ships left the port to take part in it. Tanks, guns and ammunition were constantly being loaded at the docks.

Barry was one of a small number of ports where explosives could be landed or loaded from the dockside. Any spare piece of ground was used to unpack tanks and other vehicles.

Brock Street Quarry had packing cases strewn all around it. Cadoxton Bowling Club asked for, and was given, many of them to re-build its pavilion, which is still in use with a lot of the same timber in it.

At the end of the war, Barry experienced the worst snowfall it had had for many years; trains, buses and nearly all other forms of transport were halted, work stopped everywhere so that people could dig themselves out.

The local authority, with its limited resources, tried its best to dig the town out and clear the main roads of snow and get essential traffic moving.

After two days of being snowed in, the Americans who were stationed at Sully and who wanted to visit the Cardiff night spots, appeared with their bulldozers – and cleared the road from their camp to the Merrie Harrier in a matter of hours.

MEM BLAZE

On the way, they took out the hump-backed bridge on the Sully Moors Road that had been a bottleneck for years, they replaced it with a Bailey bridge that gave good service for a great many years.

The last event of any moment in the 1940s was the fire at the Memorial Hall on a Whit-Monday.

The hall was being used as a hospital at the time; patients and staff were safely moved out.

It took 15 years to repair the damage done by the fire.

Most of the time it was open to the elements and was liable to be demolished by a council, which didn't have the money or the will to repair it.

Eventually, the repairs were carried out and the hall was re-opened by Alderman Rook in May 1957.

DON'T LAG BEHIND... Wrap up and pipe down this winter!

THE message to customers in Welsh Water's 'Wrap Up Wales' campaign is reminding people to make sure that the water pipes in their homes are protected to avoid the disruption and expense that can be caused by frozen pipes.

The campaign reminds people to protect their pipes from bursting and causing damage that could cost thousands of pounds. The problem is usually linked to pipes that are exposed to very low temperatures, such as those in garages, outhouses and attics.

The water in the pipes expands when it freezes, which can lead to bursting when the pipes thaw. Urgent and expensive repair is then needed to fix the problem.

A spokesperson for Welsh Water has helpfully pointed out that when a problem occurs on pipes in homes, it is the responsibility of the homeowner or landlord and so it's worth taking time to check they are well insulated.

Ian Christie, Welsh Water's managing director of water services said: "Frozen pipes which burst can cause unnecessary inconvenience and expense. However, this can be easily avoided by taking a few moments to check and protect the pipes.

"If you are unfortunate enough to experience frozen pipes, then make sure you don't leave taps open and unattended. As the pipes thaw, the water will likely start to flow which could lead to baths and sinks overflowing if you are not around.

"Our message is help us 'Wrap up Wales' and take action now to prevent a problem that can cause a tremendous amount of inconvenience and expense – at the time of the year when you'd least want to face it."

More information on how to prevent pipes freezing can be found on the company's website www.dwrcymru.com or the campaign website www.wrapupwales.com.

There is also an opportunity to apply for one of 600 free lagging kits.

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Vale village's Christmas market is a real success

Photographs by IAN DIXON

PETERSTON-super-Ely Church Hall was the venue for the annual Christmas market in the village and once again it was superbly organised by Pat Cadwalladr.

The event proved an outstanding success with many craft and food stalls, as well mulled wine, soup, rolls and hot drinks, provided by the church ladies.

The bran tub proved very popular with the children, and for entertainment, there were carols from the local school choir, and the church choir, with support from the handbell group.

Crackers' Llantwit Christmas lunch

ON Christmas Day 2015, with Phil Hibbert from Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit Major, a group of local people – dubbed the 'Llantwit Christmas Crackers' – got together to provide Christmas lunch for isolated older people in our community.

It proved such a success they did it again in 2016. Some 27 people attended, and comments included: "If it wasn't for you I would have been home again on my own this Christmas"; and "It was absolutely wonderful, I was overcome with everything, the people, the food, the presents!"

It wouldn't have been successful without the support from the local community. Thanks go to:

Stuart Sloan from Sloan's, Llantwit Major's clothes shop, donated the gifts for Santa to hand out on the day.

Wiltshire Farm Foods provided the main course.

WA Brown & Son, Co-op Funeral Home, donated the drinks.

Greenlinks Community Transport for the minibuses so we could provide transport to everyone who needed it.

Sally Hanks, Llantwit's mayor popped down to say hello to everyone and the Vale mayor Stuart Egan provided the starters.

For entertainment we had the wonderful local harpist Nia Rees, and the fabulous Ukeladies and Ukeladdies. Owen from Happy Embroidery in Dinas Powys provided the embroidered aprons for all volunteers to wear, and Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre provided the sundries and supplies.

Finally, we must mention Eleanor McNamara who knitted mini Christmas puddings for everyone: a wonderful final touch!

However none of this would have been possible if it hadn't been for the volunteers, a huge thank you from everyone who attended.

We can't list everyone, but the whole community came out to support us with donations and gifts.

We look forward to seeing you in 2017!

For more information please contact jane.platts1@gmail.com.

JP

Makaton-friendly business recognised

A BARRY business has been recognised for its use of Makaton, a speech, sign and symbol language, to help people communicate and make its services accessible to children and adults with learning or communication difficulties.

EarlyVersity is the first high street business in Wales to be awarded the honour and only the fifth institution in Wales to be recognised with this accolade.

Peter Thomas, a director at EarlyVersity, explained: "As a company formed by educational practitioners, we are passionate about communication and firmly believe that all children and adults with a learning or communication difficulty should be able to access the same services and facilities as everyone else."

The Makaton Friendly scheme is designed to recognise organisations or businesses that use Makaton in a simple, informal way to make Makaton users feel welcome and enable them to access services within their community.

For some people, Makaton is related to the CBeebies character Mr Tumble, who uses the signs and symbols in his show *Something Special*.

All organisations that have been awarded Makaton Friendly status have demonstrated that staff know when and how to use the language programme, which was developed in the UK in the 1970s.

EarlyVersity uses Makaton in its coffee shop, child development classes and shows, and even introduced the system in its recent Christmas 'experience' with Santa using Makaton.

Kay Rawlinson who manages the Makaton programme at EarlyVersity, added: "I'm thrilled that, as a company, we have been award such an honour as the Makaton Friendly status provides. Using Makaton in our business is natural to all of our staff given our background in teaching and education."

EarlyVersity hopes to encourage other business to follow suit and use Makaton in their daily interactions and communications with customers.

For further information about Makaton, visit www.makaton.org/.

Go to the **Glamorgan GEM** website for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Donations can also be made online by going to the Just Giving website and search for ***The Horse and Groom just giving page.*** *The Just Giving page is still ongoing.*

Our total to date is £2,873.70

Donations can be made by calling in or phoning Jo at The Horse and Groom. Tel: 01446 772253

SUCCESSFUL YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE FOR 'ENTHRALLING' VALE CHOIR VERITAS

Photographs by
IAN DIXON

VALE choir Caritas completed its 2016 programme with a Christmas concert in St German's Church, Roath, Cardiff.

The building was ideal for the main Caritas choir, which filled the church with music that enthralled the packed audience in the large church.

The choir's director, Lindsay Gray, thanked everyone for their support over the last year, commenting that since the formation of Caritas in 2013, nearly £25,000 had been raised for charities and good causes.

Caritas director Lindsay Gray.

Go to the **Glamorgan GEM** website for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

THE ART OF INDUSTRIAL SOUTH WALES GRIPS COWBRIDGE U3A

THE pre-Christmas appearance of Brian Davies, former curator of Pontypridd Museum, at Cowbridge U3A's history group has become as much a tradition as decorated trees, mulled wine, mince pies and transport disruption.

This time, the subject of his illustrated talk (delivered, as usual, without the aid of notes) was the art of industrial south Wales, from the mid-18th century to the late-19th century. Not the most interesting subject, one might think, to non-specialists, but Brian's presentations are tailored to his audience, with humour and no 'highbrow' jargon.

The audience was informed that the greatest regional concentration of industrial paintings in Europe and, perhaps, even the world, is of south Wales, but, unfortunately, no outstanding collection of such paintings is actually held in Wales.

The first group of landscapes displayed revealed an area still largely bucolic in character; Ibbetson's 1790 *Bridge of Beauty*, now on display at Pontypridd Museum (bought for £24,000), shows the new bridge at Pontypridd in the distance and depicts a rural scene, as did a picture of the forge at Trostrey.

There was even an 1850's painting of Mountain Ash, with a countryside of golden autumn colours – and only a few small collieries in view.

Industrialisation had started in south Wales as early as the reign of Elizabeth I, with copper smelting at Aberdulais and a blast furnace at Tintern.

By the early 18th century, industry had increased substantially, with iron-making in Pontypool, extensive copper smelting in Neath and Swansea and coal mining in Glamorgan. This was all captured in paintings.

The great ironworks of the 19th century in Merthyr, Blaenavon and Nantyglo furnished the subject of many of the works that were shown, as artists had a fascination with the colours (black smoke, red fires) that were generated by the blast furnaces, both by day and by night.

Paintings showed how humans had the ability to alter the landscape completely, with green fields and trees being replaced by industry, with its multitude of chimneys belching thick black smoke, from Dowlais to the Rhymney Valley.

The other great industry of south Wales, coal mining, was well represented in paintings, with depictions of dangerous methods of descent into mines (men in a small basket and boys hanging on to the lowering chains) and hazardous working conditions in the tunnels (called roadways), with very young children often being employed. There were even bilingual signs in the paintings of underground scenes.

Transportation was not neglected, with scenes of horse-drawn tram roads, the canals built to transport iron and coal and also the railways that supplanted the waterways, including the massive iron structure of the Crumlin viaduct, the highest one in Britain throughout its working life.

The talk ended with scenes of unrest in south Wales; the Chartist uprising in 1839, which had the aim of gaining political rights for the working class, and the Rebecca Riots of the 1840s over the introduction of toll roads (the turnpike trusts).

The history group is already anticipating Brian's next pre-Christmas offering! **SPM**

CHARITY QUIZ

Barry Town Mayor, Coun Charlotte Williams, will be holding a charity quiz night at Market Street Club, Barry on Friday, January 13, 2017 at 7pm for 7.30pm, to raise money for The Down's Syndrome Association, Breast Cancer Now and the Stroke Association.

The evening will include a raffle and buffet, priced at £5 per person with a maximum of six people per team.

For more information, contact juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01446 704 921.

Children from local primary schools battle it out on the netball court for a place in the Bridgend final.

'Hot shot' netball teams through to Bridgend finals

EIGHT primary schools have netted a place in the finals of the Bridgend County Borough netball championship after shining on court at recent netball festivals.

Bridgend County Borough Council and Welsh Netball organised the festival.

Plasnewydd, Nantymoel, Maes yr Haul and West Park primary schools came top during four local festivals held recently, with runners-up Caerau, Ogmore Vale, Pencoed and Mynydd Cynfig schools also going through to the Bridgend County Borough finals, which will be held in February.

The top two teams at the finals will then go up against primary schools from Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff in the Glamorgan Valleys final for the opportunity to reach the Welsh finals which will take place at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff in May.

Young netballers have been lucky enough to have three Celtic Dragon players on hand during the Bridgend County festivals. Bethan Dyke – Celtic Dragons WA/C from Bridgend, Kalifa McCollin – Celtic Dragons GA/GS from Trinidad and Tobago and Stacey Peeters – Celtic Dragons WD/C from New Zealand have been helping the teams on the court, giving tips to players, and giving autographs and having photos with the teams.

Coun Hailey Townsend, said: "It's great to hear that so many local young people, girls and boys alike, are continuing to enjoy netball. We've seen some fantastic team work and dedication shown through these festivals.

To find out more about local netball clubs please visit www.welshnetball.co.uk or call 02920 334952. For more details on sporting opportunities within schools contact the council's AYPD on 01656 815224 or email aypd@bridgend.gov.uk.

Camelots end year with a win

THE final match for the Barry Chess Club in 2016 saw the Camelots in Division 2 play host to the Pentyrch B team.

This ended with a convincing win for Barry by a score of 4-1. Rhys Steele maintained his 100 per cent record with his fourth straight win.

He was ably supported by Sam Jukes on board 2 and Tom Cooke on board 5 who also recorded victories. To complete the scoring there were draws for Stephen Bonutto and John Stephenson.

At the halfway stage with nine games played the Camelots sit in the relatively secure spot of sixth position. We have earned 22 points so far and are 4.5 points above the relegation zone.

On the basis that we need in the region of 41 points for security we are already more than halfway to securing our status in division 2.

Stephen Bonutto still leads the Alec Wood trophy after six months of recording with an increase in his rating of 182 points.

It will prove harder to earn points for him in the final five months of recording as he now has a rating in excess of 1600 so he can only pick up a maximum of 24 points per game against the 32 he could previously earn.

In second place is Anlan Qiu with a ratings increase of 144. Perhaps of more danger is Nayanna Kalavala in third place because although her rating has improved by 137 points, her rating remains below 1600.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Sully youngsters are kitted out by a donation

SULLY SPORTS has been handed a bumper donation to help pay for new kit for one of its youth teams.

The club's under-12s Whites team has received £1,000 from leading housebuilder Persimmon Homes East Wales for new shirts and to help pay to use training facilities.

Andrew Nourish, of the club, said: "We are extremely grateful to Persimmon Homes for this generous donation.

"We are a mixed kids football team playing in the Vale local league. We take subs but running a sports team is very expensive these days and we need all the help we can get. It's fantastic that large companies like Persimmon are willing to help clubs like ours."

The donation comes as part of Persimmon Homes' Community Champions initiative. The Community Champions scheme sees the builder donate up to £2,000 to charities and community groups within south-east Wales each and every month.

This happens across all of Persimmon's 28 regions as well as at the company's head office in York.

Since the scheme launched in March 2015, more than £1million has been dished out to good causes nationally.

Victoria Williams, sales director at Persimmon Homes East Wales, said: "We are proud to be able to hand over this money to Sully Sports.

"Sully Sports is a great club with teams at every level from under-8s upwards. The volunteers do a terrific job keeping the club running and we're delighted to be able to help in this way."

Victoria added: "Community Champions has been a hugely successful initiative which has allowed us to support more than 20 good causes already.

"Applications for funding can be made quickly and easily by visiting

www.persimmonhomes.com/charity."

Penllyne Bridge Club results

PENLLYNE Bridge Club December results:

Thursday, December 1 (12 pairs): 1st. J. Evans & C. Impey 68.84%, 2nd. A. Evans & K. Price 64.59%, 3rd. M. East & B. Easterbrook 59.09%.

Thursday, December 8 (16 pairs): 1st. M. & H. Thomas 62.66%, 2nd. M.Baron & B. Tucker 61.36% 3rd. C. & J. Nunn 59.74%.

CN

Anniversary game arranged for Athletic

A special match between Ospreys A league leaders Bridgend Athletic and Bridgend County youth has been arranged for next Wednesday, January 11, at the Brewery Field, kick off 7.15pm to celebrate 40 years of youth rugby at Bridgend Athletic. All are welcome.

AB

Welsh riders land Boxing Day wins

TWO Welsh riders Alan Johns and David Prichard, who were in action at Wincanton on Boxing Day, both rode winners.

Johns riding the Tim Vaughan trained *Chakisto* took the Bathwick Tyres Novices Handicap Hurdle by one-and-three-quarter lengths from *Lough Derg Island* and Prichard won the closing Solstice Kitchens Standard Open National Hunt Flat race on Victor Dartnall's *Run To Milan* by three and a half lengths from *Lalor*.

Chakisto went off the 3-1 favourite and Run To Milan who was having its first run in public was available at odds of 10-1.

At Chepstow, on Coral Welsh Grand National day, Evan Williams' promising six-year-old *Pobbles Bay* was a good winner of the Coral.Co.UK Money Back If Your Horse Falls Novices' Limited Handicap Chase under Adam Wedge.

Pobbles Bay could be in the line-up for next year's Welsh Grand National all going well.

FLINT'S 33-1 BANGOR STUNNER

Vale trainer John Flint collected his Christmas expenses when his four-year-old bay filly *Arian* made all the running under his son Rhys Flint to land the Yorton Stallions Mares Maiden Open National Hunt Flat Race at Bangor last Thursday.

Arian, which is by *King's Theatre*, was backed from 50-1 to 33-1 and won by three lengths from the 5-2 favourite *Oh Michelle* partnered by Willie Twiston-Davies in a field of 16 runners.

At Ffos Las 24 hours earlier, Llancarfan's Evan Williams made sure his Christmas would be a happy one too by landing a double with *Fille Des Champs* and *Cape Caster*.

The former, a five-year-old bay mare who carried bottom weight in the Gwynne Price Transport Mares Handicap, was ridden by Adam Wedge and was returned at odds of 10-1 and the latter, who at five was the youngest of the five runners, took the Finning Handicap Chase when coming home five lengths ahead of *Rock On Rocky*.

Cape Caster, a 11-4 chance, was partnered by Conor Ring. Hopes of a Ffos Las hat-trick for Evan were dashed when Debra Hamer's top-weighted *Looks Like Power*, ridden by Richard Patrick, proved too good for his *Present Times* in the closing O'Brien & Partners Handicap Hurdle.

***SILVER STREAKS* IN**

***Silver Streak*, a three-year-old grey gelding racing for the first time for Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams, streaked home a 12 lengths winner of the Happy New Year Handicap Hurdle at Taunton.**

Silver Streak, the youngest horse in the race, was partnered by stable jockey Paul Moloney and was returned the 2-1 favourite.

BRIAN LEE

WALES STUDENTS NAME WORLD CUP SQUAD

WALES Students have named a strong 36-man training squad in preparation for the Student Rugby League World Cup in July 2017.

The squad contains a number of professional players as well as two have also won full caps for Wales – Paul Emanuelli who played for Wales in 2014 and Morgan Evans of Gloucestershire All Golds who is now an established regular in the Welsh national side and could potentially make two trips to Australia next year.

Evans' All Golds team-mate Liam Rice-Wilson joins him in the squad, whilst South Wales Ironmen contribute eight players in Cobi Green, Ethan Coombes, Huw Parks, Lewis Hughes, Jordan Sheridan, Lloyd Selby-Smith, Macauley Harris and Sam Buckthought.

Former South Wales first team players Connor Davies, Curtis Davies and Sion Jones (now all with Halifax), Marcus Webb (Hunslet), Jamie Murphy (Bridgend Ravens RU) and Jordan Howells (Ebbw Vale RU) are also included as is Matt Davies from North Wales Crusaders.

Wales Students coach Latham Tawhai said: "We had a great turn out for the recent training day so I'd firstly like to thank all the boys for their attendance, not only this week but also at the first session we had a few weeks back. We also had a number of coaches in attendance as well which is great for the players to be able to develop and gain experience from different people.

"I feel like I say this every year but I do believe we have an excellent crop of players coming through, all putting their hands up for one of the 24 places on the plane. No disrespect to players who have gone before but I think it's the best group I've had during the last four years, certainly in terms of depth. Wales Rugby League do a fantastic job developing young players and many of them have progressed to be in contention for a World Cup place.

"We now have a core group who have been together for a couple of years, and this time around, we'll be able to add a little bit of experience which will make a big difference. As you always get at this level, there are also some players with great athletic ability who are fairly new to the game and as they develop, they'll offer plenty of positives to the squad in their own way.

"We'll now spend the next few months working with this group before cutting the squad further in the lead up to the tournament. They'll have plenty of opportunity to show what they are capable of during this period.

"We'll be looking to play a few games as part of our preparations and at this stage we'd welcome anyone who may be able to provide some opposition. It's an exciting time to be involved in Student Rugby League and I think we're all looking forward to the next few months and of course the World Cup itself."

Wales Students are looking for funding to assist the players' travels to the tournament and team manager Mark Jones is inviting companies, organisations and individuals to get involved.

Jones said: "This is a very exciting time for WRL and these young players, a chance of a lifetime. We have strength in depth this year and hope to go all the way to the World Cup Final but for our dream to become reality, we are looking for companies to sponsor the World Cup squad. Click here if you would like to contribute."

An official WRL souvenir magazine previewing all three of the World Cups in 2017 – Student, Wheelchair and the full tournament at the end of the year – will be available in the spring.

Squad: Lewis Harrison (Bangor University), Morgan Evans (University of Bath), Harry Boots, Dafydd Hellard, George Jenkins, Jordan Howells, Tom Morgan, Jamie Murphy (all Cardiff Metropolitan University), Huw Parks, Jordan Sheridan (both Cardiff University), Ethan Coombes, Cobi Green, Macauley Harris, Paul Emanuelli, Archie Snook (all Coleg y Cymoedd), Matt Davies, Liam Rice-Wilson (both University of Gloucestershire), Connor Davies, Curtis Davies, Sion Jones, David Phillips, Marcus Webb (all Leeds Beckett University), Connor Meese, Sam Owen (both Leeds Trinity University), Jack Bond (Liverpool John Moores University), Ieuan Jones (Northumbria University), Daniel Crabtree (University Of Nottingham), Adrian Chaima, Jordan Elphick, Alec Wheatley (all Nottingham Trent University), Lewis Hughes (Neath Port Talbot College), Jarad Hinen, Lloyd Selby-Smith (both University of South Wales), Gethin Evans, Louie Ford (Swansea University), Sam Buckthought (University of Worcester).

IG

Pelé is set to visit the Vale

BRAZILIAN legend Pelé is the latest sporting legend to star in a sports dinner at the Vale Sports Arena on June 2, supporting PG10 and local junior sport.

Pelé, who scored 1281 goals in 1363 games, winning the World Cup on three occasions for Brazil, is the all-time leading goalscorer for Brazil with 77 goals in 91 games and is widely regarded as the greatest footballer of all time.

The event takes place the same weekend as the UEFA Champions League final, due to be held at the Principality Stadium on Saturday, June 3, which will attract thousands of people to the capital.

This is an exclusive all-ticket meet and greet event which is due to start at 6.15pm with a Champagne reception on arrival (dependent on package purchased). Sponsorship opportunities are also available on request.

To book tickets for any of these events, please email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.valesportsarena.cymru.

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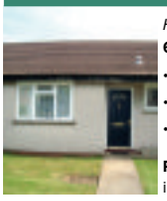

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Bryn will be remembered as a real gent *BY BRIAN LEE*

FORMER racehorse trainer Bryn Palling, who trained at Ystradowen before moving to a new purpose-built yard which he designed himself at Tredodridge in 1993, will be remembered as a real gent.

Bryn, who recently died aged 86, was a man who not only had the respect of his owners and stable staff, but also was a man always willing to lend a helping hand.

During his time at Ystradowen, Bryn and his beloved wife Marge also ran a builder's merchant and scrap business and a frequent visitor there was the great National Hunt jockey Johnny Francome, who with Clive Candy rode a lot of winners for Bryn.

Bryn started training horses around 45 years ago and he retired in 2013. A personal friendship with Paddy Rudkin, head lad at the time to the legendary trainer Sir Henry Cecil, meant that Bryn and his wife Marge spent holidays at Warren Place in Newmarket and Cecil took a personal interest in Bryn from the start.

Indeed it was Sir Henry who gave Bryn a reference when he applied for his trainer's licence to the Jockey Club and he also helped Bryn by arranging for Bryn's initial intake of horses to include some very decent ones from Warren Place.

At the beginning, Bryn trained only over-the-sticks and he had his first success with a horse called *Landslide* which won a three miles hurdle race at Stratford just three weeks after Bryn had obtained his licence.

Other successes quickly followed and all the Warren Place horses caught the judge's eye.

Echo Summit won the prestigious Double Diamond Hurdle at Chepstow and was also a winner at Cheltenham, the spiritual home of National Hunt racing.

Princely Fool, *Princess Drive*, *Elysee Palace* and *Another Deed* were other good winners for Bryn. However, when *Bryma,* named after Bryn and Marge fell jumping the last fence in the lead at Chepstow in 1998 and was killed, Bryn decided to turn his attention to flat racing.

He loved to buy yearlings to break in himself and had the knack of getting them to win as two-year-olds on their initial start. His most famous racehorse was *Carranita,* which he bought for just 800 guineas at the Doncaster sales and which was syndicated to eight lucky owners. During her racing career, which lasted until she was eight years old, she won 16 races, three or four of them listed races, and prize money of £154,891.

She was eventually sold for breeding for £80,000 so that the eight

Bryn Palling.

lucky owners received almost £30,000 each in prize money and sale proceeds, for an initial outlay of only £100 each.

It was in 1993 that Bryn sold his house and yard at Ystradowen to developers for private housing. He was then 64 years old, and at an age where most people would be thinking of retiring.

The new yard extended to 44 acres and included a seven furlong woodchip all-weather gallop, indoor school an American barn, a Harlow barn and stable yard, an oval exercise ring and horse walker, together with his new home, a large four-bedroomed bungalow.

The move paid off and he had some of his most successful seasons, winning 100 races in just over four years, including prestigious races at Goodwood, Doncaster, Chester, York and Newbury.

For Bryn, however, racing was never a numbers game. His horses' welfare always came first and this was reflected in the number of horses bought as two-year-olds that had careers spanning six and seven years.

Paul Young, who was a member of the *Carranita* syndicate, said: "Only the best was good enough for Bryn's horses and he treated all his owners in the same kindly way whether they had a share in a horse or whether they had three or four horses in his yard."

Also full of praise for Bryn was Aberkenfig's Delyth Thomas who said: "Bryn was a real gentleman and he would do anything to help you." When Bryn retired, a number of people lined up to pay tribute to him and this is what just three of them had to say.

Chris Mason, who went on to become a trainer himself, said: "Bryn and his wife Marge always gave my family a warm welcome."

Peter Morgan who rode out at Bryn's yard: "My memories of this time were some of the happiest of my life."

The last words belong to former top female rider Cathy Gannon, who rode Bryn's final winner *Gipsy Rider* at Chepstow in 2012, and who said: "I learned so much from my time with Bryn in South Wales."

BRIAN LEE

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D963.

● **£2000:** 853643.

● The rollover, which is currently £10,500, was not won this week.

● **£10:** 581580, 926475, 153331, 554850, 652430, 237341, 255352, 250291, 889087, 511152, 225373, 424176, 423279, 301858, 317993, 330881, 1881531, 001405, 001700, 001115.

● **£5:** 197853, 348391, 695572, 395579, 862002, 628940, 829815, 126812,167844, 968275, 141966, 435290, 626237, 407165, 379156, 253640, 790877, 261444, 113668, 626943, 715979, 853009, 199325, 492659, 192064, 387570, 111744, 436061, 799865, 716489, 816000, 534126, 864826, 277755, 717312, 240759, 870794, 161934, 693094, 651869, 378519, 451978, 462915, 783579, 206444, 814302, 423458, 644387, 116244, 120310, 371311, 203091, 940921, 941142, 822976, 1242649, 1133137, 1447746, 005511, 005344.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Putting the 'care' into care homes

TO go to the Caribbean and have a nice bouquet of flowers are among the Christmas wishes at a Maesteg care home.

At least two of the more than 50 residents at Bryn Celyn will have their wish come true as part of an initiative organised by the home.

Residents at the residential and nursing home on Maesteg Park, were invited to write their heart's desire on a star and hang it on a Christmas tree.

Avnish Goyal, managing director of the homes' parent company, Hallmark Care Homes, plans to make a least two wishes happen for a resident from each of the 15 Hallmark Care Homes across England and Wales.

Mr Goyal said: "We wanted to give our residents an opportunity to do something or have something they thought they would never get a chance to do again.

"It could be anything from seeing their favourite show in the West End, to visiting their place of birth, or a long lost relative. It's also a great reminiscence activity, particularly for our residents living with dementia.

"All of our residents get Christmas presents from Hallmark on Christmas Day, but getting to know what they would like to do or have gives us an opportunity to truly enhance their happiness and make a difference."

Wishes that were granted from last year's competition included reuniting a resident with his teenage sweetheart after 20 years apart and taking a resident to celebrate her 95th birthday at the Ritz.

'Lifestyle leader' at Bryn Celyn, Mark Chandler said: "We are very excited to make some of these wishes come true for our residents. Since we have encouraged our residents to think of a wish, we have found out some great things about them which we would never have known."

The home also plans to make some smaller wishes come true and says it will look at making others happen throughout the year and on the resident's birthday.

The 2016 Christmas wish winners will be announced on January 27, 2017.

What's on and where?

Cowbridge Choral

COWBRIDGE Choral Society resumes weekly rehearsals on January 5, starting with a new piece for them: the Dvorak *Stabat Mater*, for a performance later in the spring with Pontypridd Choral Society.

New members are always welcome to join the choir. Rehearsals take place at the United Free Church, Westgate (opposite the police station) at 7.30pm on Thursdays; experience is not essential.

Tax help for elderly

Free tax advice for older people is offered at Roz Couzens' Chiropody surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major (CF61 1RB) on Monday, January 9 from 10am to midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access TOP's helpline, call 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this line for those unable to attend.

Valeways guided walks

ON Wednesday, January 11 the Coffee Shop Strollers will meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap in Barry at 10.30am.

They will also meet in Cowbridge at the Physic Garden fountain at 2.30pm.

Community choir's festive concert

BARRY Community Choir celebrated an early Christmas with a well attended festive concert.

As well as carols old and new, Emma and Sian entertained with piano duets and talented young tenor, Osian Wyn Bowen, performed several pieces including 'Bring Him Home' from *Les Miserables*.

The choir starts rehearsals again on Wednesday, January 11 from 7.30pm – 9.30pm at Crossways Church, Barry. All welcome. See our website, Facebook page, email: info@barrycommunitychoir.com or call 01446 748724.

Alan's big race win

ALAN JOHNS, who is attached to Tim Vaughan's Aberthin yard, saw the old year out in fine style when winning the BetFred 'Wishing You A Happy New Year Handicap Hurdle' at Newbury on Vaughan's *Theligny,* which scored by two-and-three-quarter lengths from the gambled-on Geordie *Des Champs* trained by west Wales' Rebecca Curtis, a winner of its previous four starts.

Theligny, who was returned at odds of 12-1, is also a consistent sort and was winning for the fourth time this season.

Evan wins on *Somme Boy*

AT the Cambridgeshire Harriers Hunt Club Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Cottenham, Llanharan's Evan David won the Young Horse Open Maiden Race on the Andrew Pennock-trained, French-bred, five-year-old *Somme Boy*.

A 5-1 chance, *Somme Boy* won by a length from *Kev The Car*.

BRIAN LEE

OBITUARY
A dedicated volunteer and true gentleman

THE following tribute has been paid by the Glamorgan Voluntary Services GVS) to Penarth volunteer Martin Vick, who has passed away.

It's not hard to describe what Martin was to GVS: he was full of life and joy, which was hugely infectious to the team. He had a wonderful zest for life and he was almost certainly born with a smile on his face.

He volunteered at GVS once a week, finding time amongst all his other commitments to put in an efficient and effective shift, while bringing happiness to the office for that day each week.

He loved music and entertained us with his singing and knowledge of music. He had a passion for football and talked with enthusiasm about what his squad would be if he was manager.

Martin led a very active life. He was part of the Hi-Jinx theatre company and performed all over Europe. Martin was a gymnast, and travelled to the USA, representing the UK and winning three gold and four silver medals in the World Championships.

He later went on to volunteer for Penarth Gymnastics Club with the coaches, helping to train young gymnasts.

Martin was a true gentleman, who will surely be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to meet him.

MARK STILLMAN

Cowbridge U3A

THE next meeting of Cowbridge U3A will be a talk by Peter Douglas-Jones entitled 'A Day on a Grouse Moor', at 2pm on Wednesday, January 11 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments). See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Expressions of interest

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

ST DAVIDS MEADOW CORNTOWN

Hafod Housing Association, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, announce a new development at St Davids Meadow, Corntown.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with a local connection to Corntown (local work, family or life connections).

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Applicants must be registered with HOMES4U to apply for these homes.

Hafod Housing Association is committed to providing a safe and sustainable environment and will be asking for references and carrying out interviews with prospective tenants to achieve the full potential for this new development.

Hafod

To apply, call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to: Vale of Glamorgan Council Environment and Housing Civic Offices, Holton Road Barry CF63 4RU

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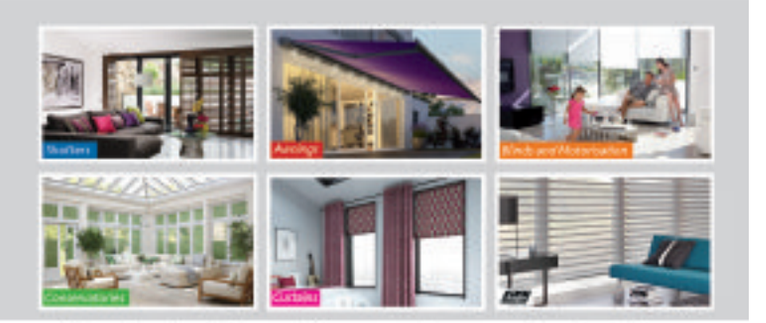

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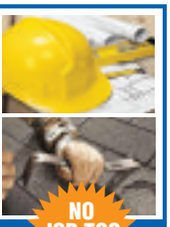

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Family Notices

THOMAS
Graham Denis

Peacefully after a short illness on Monday, December 19.

Loving husband of 40 years to childhood sweetheart, the late Betty Joan Thomas. Loving father to Carol, Cheryl and the late Stephen. Cherished grandfather to Claire, Connie, Daniel and Adam and Great Grandfather to Hollie, Rachael, Sophia and Isabella.

Graham will sadly be missed by all his family and friends.

EYNON
Martyn Henry

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, 28th December, 2016 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, surrounded by his loving family, Martyn of Coychurch, Bridgend, beloved husband of Geraldine, brother of Robert, uncle to Gail and Neil and great-uncle to Lewis.

The funeral will be held on Thursday, 12th January, 2017 at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, but should you wish to donate in memory of Martyn, the chosen charity is Cancer Research Wales c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 6SB. Tel: 01656 860545.

CRAIG
Rebecca (Rita)

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on December 21, Rita, aged 96 years, of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife to the late Bob Craig and much loved mum of David and mother-in-law to Eileen. Loving grandmother to Tim, Neal and Natalie, dearly loved great grandma to Danielle, Leo, Ephram, James and Sofia.

Rita is resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Tuesday, January 17 at 2pm (where all please meet).

Family flowers only please.

BROWN
Valerie Anne *(née Jones)*

Peacefully at home on December 19, surrounded by her family, Valerie, aged 76 years.

Beloved wife of William, much loved mum of Geraldine, Helen, Nigel, Belinda, Melloney and Jason. Cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.

Valerie will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral service in the Chapel of Rest on Friday January 6, 2017 at 10am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

REYNOLDS
Noel Stewart Bantock (Pat)

Formerly from Barry and more recently from Porthcawl, Pat passed away peacefully on December 21, 2016 at Highborder Lodge Care Home, near Stroud.

Both funeral service and cremation will be at Gloucester on Tuesday, January 10 at 1pm. Family flowers only please.

Enquiries to Henry on 01452 812013.

REES
Kathleen Anne (Kate)

Died on December 23, 2016 at Holme Tower hospice after a long illness, bravely borne. Wife of Allan, mother of David and Owen, mother-in-law of Anne and Jody, nana of Amy, Lucy and Sophie.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until a celebration of her life at St. John the Baptist Church, Sully on Thursday, January 12, at 10.45am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon.

Family flowers only and donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Penarth, CF64 3YR are requested. No dark clothing please.

DAVIES
Glyn Brinley (Bryn)

Peacefully on December 22 at Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, Bryn, well known for his time at Pickfords, Alta Express, Christian Salversen, Monex and S & K Haulage.

Beloved husband to Maureen, much loved dad of Chris and Jane. Loving step dad to Lorraine, Stephen and Royston. Special father-in-law of Alyson. A cherished grampy Bryn and pappa to Gareth, Rebecca, Laura, Katie, David, Richard, Sarah, Daniel, Nicole, Alisha and his great grandchildren, Emilie-Grace, Ethan, Kellyn, Faith and Baby K.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bryn is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Thursday, 12 January at 1pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Bryn's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages, photos and memories. All donations received to support Marie Curie Hospice.

COBOURNE
Mary

Sadly Mary died on Friday, 16th December 2016 at 'Y Bwthyn Newydd', Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. She now joins her husband, David, who died earlier this year.

She is loved and will be missed by her children, grandchild, great grandchildren and family.

The funeral will be held at 2.15pm on Tuesday, 10th January 2017 at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family and close friends only please.

No flowers, but donations if you wish to either Cancer Research UK or Macmillan Cancer Support.

THOMAS
Graham

Passed away at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, after a short illness on December 19; Graham of Clement Place, Barry.

Beloved husband of the late Betty, much loved partner of Norma, a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather; loving brother of John, Olwen and Maureen.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Care, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Monday January 9 at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

LANGFORD
Colin Stephen

Peacefully on 30 December at Barry Hospital, Colin Stephen, aged 85 years of Millfield Drive, Cowbridge. Beloved husband of the late Marie. Loving father of Kathryn and father-in-law of Bill. Cherished grandfather of John and Michael. Dear brother of Margaret.

Colin will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday, January 10. Service and committal at Cardiff Crematorium where family and friends please meet 10am.

Family flowers only by request.

CANNON
Lorraine Elizabeth (nee Stewart)

Died 12 November 2016 at Llandough Hospital. A private family cremation on 21 December 2016 has already taken place.

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Acknowledgement

WALKER
Kenneth (Ken)

Liz and family of the late Ken Walker would like to express their sincere appreciation for all flowers, cards and kind words following their loss.
Also to thank A.G. Adams & Sons for their utmost care and consideration.

In Memory

LEWIS
Gwilym Wynne

Treasured memories of Wynne who passed away January 3rd 2003, loving husband of Colleen, devoted father of Wynne and Michele, ever remembered bampy and father-in-law.
Always loved and forever in our thoughts.

OWENS
Brenda

Special memories of Brenda on January 4.
Love and miss you always.
Shirley and family xxx

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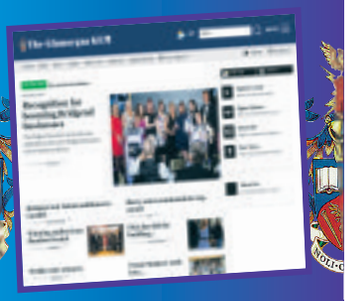

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Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Valco Scaffolding, of Level 1, Office 5, 50 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HE is applying for a licence to use Unit 9, Business Park, Cardiff Road, Barry, CF63 2PQ as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01438/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed extensions, alterations and renovation to the existing buildings
Location:/Lleoliad: The Tower, Tower Hill, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01467/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed conversion and loft conversion to existing property to form 3 self contained apartments
Location:/Lleoliad: 33, Station Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Penarth Conservation Area

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01464/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Remove roof structure to garage. Demolish two brick walls to garage. Leave and repair existing stone walls to existing walled garden, currently part of the garage
Location:/Lleoliad: Llansannor Court. Lane - Jct Newton to Jct Church Farm Via Llansannor Court, Llansannor
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade I

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01427/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development of up to 300 units and associated work, including the provision of public open space and strategic access points
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off Cowbridge Road, St Athan

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01427/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development of up to 300 units and associated work, including the provision of public open space and strategic access points
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off Cowbridge Road, St Athan

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01466/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The use of part of the quarry as a centre for CPCS Operator Training
Location:/Lleoliad: Argoed Isha Quarry, Llansannor, Llanharry

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01427/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development of up to 300 units and associated work, including the provision of public open space and strategic access points
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off Cowbridge Road, St Athan

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 5 January, 2017

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
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REVISITING WALES' HISTORIC SUMMER...

Robson Kanu sends Wales into dreamland... and next up are the English in Lens!

WALES ended their 58-year wait to qualify for a major tournament last summer as Chris Coleman's team competed in Euro 2016.

Yet few would have imagined that the Dragons would have reached the semi-final stages, where ultimately they were defeated by a Ronaldo-led Portugal, the eventual winners.

Gareth Jamieson was in Bordeaux for Wales' historic first game against Slovakia, and here we revisit his report from that day.

THE first game of any tournament is a tricky one – you want to set out your stall, show what you're capable of and make a winning start, but are more than aware that to start the tournament with a defeat can put you on the back foot.

With Wales, add in the pressure of a nation priming itself to make up for 58 years of defeat and disaster – not that this squad would allow themselves to be distracted by the emotion of the occasion, as they have shown in the last 12 months – and the game against Slovakia in Bordeaux on Saturday took on even greater significance than usual.

With a stadium seemingly spilling over with Welsh fans, red overpowering the white of Slovakia, Chris Coleman's men took to the field knowing that having already achieved the goal of qualifying for a major tournament, the next step was to show that they belong on the European stage.

In a game that ebbed and flowed throughout, it seemed that the large Welsh contingent in the Stade de Bordeaux (and the thousands watching in fan zones both in Bordeaux and Cardiff) were going to have to settle for a draw, Gareth Bale's wonderful free kick being cancelled out by Ondrej Duda's effort – but cometh the hour, cometh the man.

Hal Robson Kanu, who proved throughout qualifying he was pivotal to Wales' attacking game with his ability to create space for the likes of Bale and Ramsey, ran on to a pass by the latter and his scuffed finish rolled into the corner of the net, sending the fans wild and creating another slice of history for this group of players, the first British team in the history of the tournament to win their opening game.

Photo by Huw Evans Agency.

The result became even more important later that evening as England were stunned by a late equaliser in their game with Russia, leaving Coleman's team sitting top of the pile in Group B ahead of their game with Roy Hodgson's men this afternoon (Thursday).

For a game that was already in the spotlight given the derby nature of it, even more significance will now be placed on the end result – a win for Wales would almost certainly ensure qualification for the next stage (and severely dent England's ambitions). A draw will leave both sides' fate in their own hands, while an England victory would leave the group looking open going into the final round of matches.

As soon as the final whistle blew on Russia-England, the mind games began, Gareth Bale questioning England's pride and passion and stating that they "big themselves up before they've done anything", accusations that were defended with more than a little annoyance by both Roy Hodgson and Wayne Rooney, Hodgson labelling the comments "disrespectful".

The ever-controversial Jack Wilshere then claimed that England had the better players and better team, only for ITV pundit Craig Bellamy to suggest that Wales had a better team unity and, more importantly, the best player out of the two teams in Gareth Bale, rubbishing Wilshere's comments – all good banter, but proof, if any were needed, how high the stakes are in Lens later today.

Arguably the pressure lays squarely on England – anything other than a win will put their participation in the tournament past the group stages in serious risk (not including the behaviour of their fans, the unsavoury events in Marseille casting a dark pall over the tournament).

England chasing the game will suit Wales' game plan perfectly, playing tight and allowing Bale to use his pace on the counter-attack to run at the creaking English defence.

Avoiding defeat will be the most important thing, but Wales will definitely feel that if they play further up the pitch than they did on Saturday they can take the game to England.

Should Robson Kanu start the game then Wales will have no problems doing that – his presence will occupy the English defence allowing Bale to attack from deep, something that helped Wales beat Slovakia; up to the point of Robson Kanu's introduction (and the thankfully fully-fit Joe Ledley), Wales were being pushed further and further back by Slovakia, and Bale leading the line (being supported by the phenomenal Jonny Williams) meant Wales weren't getting forward in enough numbers to test the Slovaks.

Play further up the field today and Wales should feel more confident and assured of getting a positive result against our neighbours. It's fascinatingly poised and a nervy and exciting afternoon is in store for supporters of both countries – can Wales add England to their list of scalps? Don't bet against them...

Barry RFC return to action with derby game

FOLLOWING the Christmas and New Year break, Barry return to league action this weekend with a mouthwatering home fixture against current League leaders and local rivals Dinas Powys, kick off at 2.30pm.

The early season game at Dinas saw the home side gain a four point victory, so Barry will be keen to avenge that defeat and stretch their unbeaten run to eight games in the process.

If you have some time to kill, Barry youth are playing Llantwit Major at Cardiff Arms Park at 12 noon.

We are still waiting for a winner in the club lottery.

Numbers for the festive period were as follows: December 24 - 07, 08, 21 and 24, and for December 31: 05, 09, 10 and 17. This week's prize will see a jackpot of £3,325.

Those members of the lottery who paid for a full year by cash, card or cheque are reminded that this week's draw will be the last, and this year's payment should be made this Saturday.

AJ

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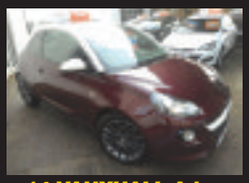

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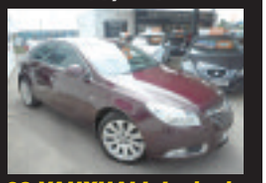

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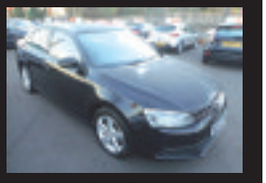

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60 **SEAT Leon 1.2 TSi 'S' 5-Dr** In black, 43,000 miles. Good looking car **£5,995**

60 **HYUNDAI i30 Comfort 1.6 Diesel Estate** In met-grey, 30,000 miles, 1 owner **£5,795**

11 **CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive** In met-grey, 63,000 miles....**£5,695**

61 **RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic** In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav **£5,495**

10 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Edge Automatic 5-Dr** In mulbury metalic, 41,000 miles **£5,495**

09 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3-Dr Automatic** In hot magenta, 53,000 miles **£5,495**

09 **VOLVO C30 R-Design SE 2.0 Diesel Automatic** In black, 71,000 miles ....**REDUCED TO £5,295**

11 **MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 3-Dr** In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout....**£4,995**

10 **HYUNDAI i20 Comfort 1.4 Automatic 5-Dr** In red, 38,000 miles **£4,995**

59 **VOLKSWAGEN Passat High Line 2.0 TDi Automatic** In met-grey with black leather trim, 88,000 miles **£4,995**

56 **SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.6 3-Dr** In black, 69,000 miles, 2 owners 4x4 at **£4,995**

60 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 Diesel Zetec 5-Dr** In black, 85,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,495**

10 **RENAULT Megane Dynamique 1.6 5-Dr** In extreme blue, 57,000 miles, bluetooth, alloys etc **£4,295**

08 **VOLKSWAGEN Eos 2.0 Convertable** In black, 79,000 miles, 4 seater with solid roof **£4,295**

60 **CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr** In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,995**

09 **SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr** In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance.... **£3,995**

08 **CITROEN C4 Picasso 1.6 Diesel VTR Auto** In met muave, 85,000 mile 7-seater **£3,995**

10 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique TomTom 5-Dr** In red, 76,000 miles with sat-nav.... **£3,695**

09 **FORD Focus 2.0 TD 136 Zetec Automatic Estate** In met-blue, 102,000 miles, excellent condition.... **£3,695**

09 **FORD Focus 2.0 TDi 136 Zetec Automatic Estate** In met-blue, ideal family estate at .. **£3,695**

07 **PEUGEOT 207CC 1.6 Automatic** In silver with black leather, 31,000 mile convertable at .. **£3,695**

06 **SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertable (150)** In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles.... **£3,495**

59 **HYUNDAI 110 Classic** In met-blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax **£2,995**

08 **MITSUBUSHI Colt 'Black Hawk' 1.5 Turbo** In black with black leather, 69,000 miles.... **£2,695**

06 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 64,000 miles, a/c, alloys.... **£2,295**

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Flyers blow away the Christmas cobwebs!

LOCAL cycling club Pontyclun Flyers held a 40 mile sportive ride just after Christmas to blow away the cobwebs and burn off the Christmas cake.

120 riders set off on a cold, frosty morning from Pontyclun Athletic Club on a route which took them past glistening fields through the Vale lanes to Llantwit Major.

There a feed station had been set up supplying mince pies and mulled wine at the White Hart Inn. More lanes then led them back to Pontyclun and a welcoming cup of coffee.

The ride raised £2200 which will be split between Pedal Power, the cycling charity, and the Pontyclun Foodbank. The riders congratulated the organisers on an excellent event, and now look forward to next year.

Local cyclists are welcome to join the Flyers; and there is more information on the club website and Facebook.

PG

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

FOR the last darts match of 2016, all the teams gathered at the Edmondes Arms on Tuesday, December 20, for the Great Western Cup. This is a team knockout competition.

It was certainly a crowded evening. The two teams surviving to play in the final are the Edmondes B and Llanharry (the Edmondes B knocking out the Edmondes A in their semi-final). Llanharry reached the final by defeating the Highwayman Inn.

Performances of note were Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms) hitting his third 180 of the season and Paul Butcher (Edmondes B) with a 79 two-dart-out: treble 13 and a double 20.

League standings, after 11 weeks, are: Edmondes B (70 points), Six Bells Inn (65), Highwayman Inn (62), Edmondes A (54), Edmondes C (51), Llanharry (49), Victoria Inn (46), Hairy Farmers (45), Farmers Arms (44) and Red Lion (9).

Next week (Tuesday, January 10) we will have a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes B hosts the Farmers Arms, the Hairy Farmers hosts the Edmondes A, the Edmondes C hosts the Victoria Inn, Llanharry hosts the Highwayman Inn and the Six Bells Inn hosts the Red Lion.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Llantwit Major RFC resolve to start the new year with a win

WITH 2016 ending with them being both knocked out of the cup competition and then heavily beaten by Cowbridge in the local derby, Llantwit Major RFC will no doubt be hoping for a fresh start to 2017.

Their first fixture sees them travel to the capital this Saturday to take on Cardiff Saracens in the league, the game taking place at the Roath Recreation Ground kick-off 2.30pm.

It has been over 20 years since the two teams have faced each other, with old stalwart second row Shaun Shea just a mere pup when he played in the friendly fixture on the morning of a Five Nations championship game.

The Sarries it would be fair to say have had a poor season so far, winning just two of their 10 fixtures, but one lesson Llantwit have learnt is that there are no easy games in this league.

Reports coming from Roath suggest they may well have lost many of their fixtures but they do put in some good displays and have a young exciting back line.

With Llantwit desperately eager to recover their early season form, it should then make for an interesting match.

Some people may be wondering if the Llantonians have taken on any New Years resolutions - to complete the game without any yellow cards may well be a good start!

Any supporters are welcome to travel on the team bus leaving the clubhouse at 12.30pm. For the after-match refreshments the club are now located at The Tavistock Pub, Bedford Street, off City Road.

AH

COWBRIDGE RFC BACK IN ACTION

COWBRIDGE RFC start the new year this Saturday, hoping to extend their unbeaten run to five.

The visitors to the Athletic Field are Canton, who currently lie fourth in the league, one place and one point above Cowbridge.

After a mixed start to the season both teams have hit a rich vein of form – Cowbridge illustrating how much progress they have made with the impressive victory at Llantwit Major before the break.

Saturday's game should be a cracker, so let's hope for a great crowd to start the new year.

The youth travel to Pontypridd, whom they defeated in the first game of the season.

On January 14, the firsts are at home against Penygraig, and the following Saturday they travel to unbeaten table-toppers Cefn Coed.

A happy New Year to all. ***RV/RK***

Bridgend Bridge Club latest news

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, December 21: First, David Bowen and David Crompton; Second, Rob Forman and Alan Heath; Equal Third, Linda Pinnock and Steve Burgoyne and Norma and David Newman. The winners on handicap were David Bowen and David Crompton.

Friday, December 23: Equal First, Steve Burgoyne and John Evans & Liam Sheridan and Glenda Roberts; Equal Third, Irene Thomas and Jenny Vaughan & Dian Jones and John Henson. The winners on handicap were Dian Jones and John Henson.

Wednesday, December 28: First, Tony Haworth and Robert Charlesworth; Second, Norma and David Newman; Third, Pat Haworth and Tricia Saunders. Winners on handicap were Norma and David Newman.

Friday, December 30: First, Steve Burgoyne and John Evans; Second, Norma and David Newman; Third Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas. Winners on handicap were John Moore and Colin Lewis.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall. On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions when, although master points are awarded, advice on bidding is readily available.

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before the start times to ensure both a prompt commencement of play and to play the maximum possible number of boards.

Full information about the club can be found on Bridgend Duplicate Bridge Club website or contacting one of Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

DN

Llantwit Major & District Darts League round-up

THE Llantwit Major and District Darts League enters the New Year with its leagues halfway through the season with both the 'A' and 'C' Leagues having played 14 games.

The latest highlights were: Jeff Price 180 and 16 dart leg, Dai Sawyer 19 dart leg.

The LMDDL Committee would like to wish its members, their families and our local communities a Happy New Year.

Monday night 'C' League table: Lamb and Flag 'C1' 117, Shoes St Athan 92, Lamb and Flag 'C2' 91, Wenvoe Arms 88, Boverton Castle 87, Rugby Club 76, Tudor Tavern 'C2' 69, Kings Head 'C2' 68, Kings Head 'C1' 45, Tudor Tavern 'C1' 37.

Tuesday night 'A' League table: Kings Head 'A1' 126, Wenvoe Arms 111, Fox and Hounds 88, Rugby Club 'A2' 87, Shoes St Athan 85, Golden Cups 81, Four Bells 77, Shoes Peterston 72, Lamb and Flag 70, Rugby Club 'A1' 64, Blacksmith Arms 58, Kings Head 'A2' 57, Tudor Tavern 55, Rugby Club 'A3' 47.

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